

Israelis, allies attacked

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli forces and their militia allies in South Lebanon were attacked three times Wednesday but there were no injuries, the military command said. In the first assault, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at an Israeli position in the village of Maaroub east of the Mediterranean port of Tyre. Later, a roadside bomb was detonated as an Israeli patrol drove by the Bourj Al Shamali Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of the port city of Sidon. In the third attack, a grenade was thrown at a patrol of the "South Lebanon Army," the militia Israel is arming and training to "police" South Lebanon. Israel Radio reported Wednesday that the Israeli army had entrusted the predominantly Christian militia, estimated at 2,000 troops, with "security" duties in several neighbourhoods in Sidon, the provincial capital of the south. It has been a centre of anti-Israel commando attacks.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Murphy affirms Gulf peace efforts

MANAMA (AP) — The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs was quoted Wednesday as affirming Washington's intent to exert efforts to help end the Iran-Iraq war as he arrived here in continuation of his Gulf sojourn. Richard Murphy made the 45-minute flight from Kuwait to Bahrain shortly after a meeting with Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Al Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed. The Kuwaiti official said Mr. Murphy stressed in the course of the talks that the U.S. was "keen to exploit all avenues leading to a halt of the war and to bring peace to the region." Mr. Rashed said the Kuwaiti side outlined its views and keenness to have peace and stability prevail in the Gulf and to have the Iran-Iraq conflict solved "through constructive dialogue." The Kuwaiti official described Mr. Murphy's inur as one of fact-finding.

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King receives Tunisian message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received in the Royal Court Wednesday the Tunisian minister of state for international co-operation, who conveyed to him a verbal message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on co-operation between the two countries. The audience was attended by Minister of Industry and Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani and the Tunisian ambassador to Jordan. The King also received Mahmoud Qurbanov, minister of light industries in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. The meeting was attended by Bahjat Al Talhouni, president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, and the Soviet ambassador to Jordan.

King sends message to South Yemen, page 2

Morocco receives Jordan's message

AMMAN (J.T.) — King Hassan II of Morocco Tuesday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the current situation in the Arab and international arenas as well as the importance of crystallising a unified Arab stand towards the dangers and events facing the Arab Nation especially the dangers of the United States moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Jordanian news agency Petra said.

Masri, Arab team to visit W. Germany

BONN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri will visit West Germany soon as member of an Arab League delegation to discuss the Iran-Iraq war, Jordanian Ambassador Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf announced here Tuesday. He said other Arab delegations will go to Holland, Belgium and Italy on similar mission. The delegations' tour is in implementation of a resolution taken by Arab foreign ministers at their recent meeting in Baghdad, the ambassador said.

Hikmat named acting foreign minister

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has entrusted Transport Minister Taher Hikmat with carrying out the duties of Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri who is away from the country. Mr. Masri is currently in Morocco to attend a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's Jerusalem Committee.

'Abu Jihad did not meet Mubarak'

AMMAN (J.T.) — A spokesman for Deputy Commander of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Forces Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) Wednesday refused a press report that the Palestinian leader made a secret visit to Cairo recently and held a brief meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The spokesman, who is a senior official of the Revolutionary Council of Fateh, the mainstream PLO group, told the Jordan Times that a news report that appeared in the Kuwaiti Al Watan newspaper that Mr. Wazir made a stopover in Cairo during a recent trip from Tunisia "is groundless."

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Assad summit scheduled today

Gemayel gets rival factions' agreement on reform plan

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel and the mainly Muslim opposition have agreed on the broad outlines of political reforms in Lebanon on the eve of his meeting in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, opposition sources said Wednesday.

After talks with the Lebanese opposition, Syria Tuesday night invited Mr. Gemayel to come to Damascus to work on a package of political and security measures that would bring lasting peace to his country.

Political analysts here said a key question is whether Lebanon's Christian leaders, who torpedoed the last attempts at national reconciliation, would go along with planned reforms.

A right-wing Falangist leader, Fady Frem, reiterated his opposition to any Syrian-mediated solution.

Mr. Frem, commander of the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia, told Christian leaders Tuesday: "We are in favour of the dialogue with Syria regarding bilateral relations, but we are against a dialogue with Syria regarding the Lebanese crisis."

The opposition sources said a reform package would be based on a 1976 constitutional reform document and proposals made by Mr. Gemayel last month at reconciliation talks in Switzerland. The author of the 1976 document, former President Sulaiman Franjeh, rejected agreement on reforms at the Swiss talks on the grounds that Lebanon's Maronite Christian president would be forced to give up too much power.

But he now appears to be in agreement. On Tuesday he predicted Mr. Gemayel would be able to form a national unity government soon. On Wednesday in his hometown of Zghorta he met an envoy from Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Former Premier Rashid Karami, considered most likely to become the new prime minister, also met the envoy.

Beirut was largely quiet Wednesday after clashes Tuesday night. Private radio stations reported some fighting in the mountains south-east of the capital.

Official and militia sources said they expected the militias and the army to begin pulling their forces back on Thursday or Friday from the entire "green line" that runs from the city centre to the nearby mountains.

As a preliminary step, French

and Lebanese observers Tuesday night moved into two vacant buildings on each side of the line that have clear views of the battle zone.

Direct lines with an all-party operations room will enable them to report any ceasefire violations immediately.

Under a plan agreed on 10 days ago by Lebanon's main antagonists, about 150 observers were to monitor the disengagement of forces from Beirut port in the north to the hills 15 kilometres to the southeast.

A force of 2,000 army conscripts and policemen were to provide a buffer. The full number has not yet been mobilised, but militia sources said the operation could still go ahead.

Official sources said they expected the pullback to take place Thursday or Friday at the latest, although previous dates for implementation passed without any action.

The Associated Press adds: The Gemayel-Assad meeting, which had been expected last week, was delayed until Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam telephoned Mr. Gemayel Tuesday night to set the date for the summit. There has been no official explanation for the delay.

Sources said the talks in Damascus would focus on forming a national coalition government in Lebanon and ways to bring about political reforms to give Muslims a greater share of power.

The heads of the two neighbouring states are also expected to discuss the situation in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon and what "security guarantees" Lebanon can provide in exchange for Israel's withdrawal (Israel plans to stay on in Lebanon, page 2).

The opposition has demanded the government deal with the issues of the south — the re-opening of the coastal highway and the question of the Israeli-backed "southern Lebanon army" militia headed by Brig. Antoine Lahd.

Government opponents have demanded that Mr. Gemayel publicly denounce Brig. Lahd, who took over the command of the Lebanese militia of the south April 4. The "army" is supported and financed by Israel.

Algeria meeting aims at top-level PLO talks

TUNIS (AP) — Leaders of the three principal factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were meeting in Algiers Wednesday to make final preparations for a "summit meeting" of their leaders — Yasser Arafat, Nayef Hawatme and George Habash, PLO sources reported.

The sources said the preparatory meeting was the result of months of secret mediation efforts by the governments of Algeria and South Yemen intended to restore the PLO's unity.

The sources said Algerian and South Yemeni observers and a representative of Lebanese leftist leader Walid Jnblatt would take part in the critical meeting of Mr. Arafat's Fateh movement with Mr. Hawatme's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Mr. Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The sources said the Fateh delegation at Wednesday's meeting would include three of the movement's central committee members — Khalil Al Wazir (Abu

Jihad), Hayel Abdul Hamid and Hani Al Hassan — as well as Abu Nazar, secretary of the Fateh Revolutionary Council.

Assistant Secretary General Abu Ali Mustafa is to represent the PFLP and Assistant Secretary General Yasser Abd Rabbo the DFLP.

No date has been fixed for the proposed meeting of the top leaders of the three movements. Wednesday's meeting was aimed at clearing the ground for a session of the Palestine National Council, Mr. Wazir.

Mr. Wazir, deputy commander of the PLO forces, said the talks would also prepare for an enlarged meeting of the three groups to discuss further a session of the national council, the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, at a date still to be fixed.



Scene at the blocked-off entrance to St. James' Square in London Wednesday where an unidentified gunman opened fire on a group of protesters in front of the Libyan embassy Tuesday (AP wirephoto)

London, Tripoli locked in diplomatic stalemate

LONDON (Agencies) — Police held the Libyan embassy under siege Wednesday after all-night negotiations by telephone failed to break a diplomatic stalemate which has followed the fatal shooting of a British policewoman.

The British embassy in Tripoli was meanwhile surrounded by large numbers of Libyan soldiers who refused to let Ambassador Oliver Miles and others leave the building.

The Foreign Office said that three Britons had been arrested in Libya. Ambassador Miles and his staff were trying to learn more details, a spokesman said.

Britain said Libyans in the besieged London building had expressed regret for Tuesday's shooting. A burst of sub-machine gun fire from an embassy window had wounded 10 Libyan dissidents demonstrating outside and killed Constable Yvonne Fletcher, 25, who was helping to police the demonstration.

But there was no sign of a break in the stalemate, which raises thorny problems in the interpretation

Libya lifts siege

LONDON (R) — Staff at Britain's embassy in Libya are to be allowed to return to their homes after spending more than a day penned in the building by Revolutionary Guards, the British Foreign Office said Wednesday night.

of the Vienna Convention — the rules governing diplomatic immunity.

Britain wants the Libyan embassy cleared, which could enable it to arrest the killer if he does not have diplomatic status, and demands the right to search the building for arms. Libya has threatened retaliation if a search is attempted.

25 trapped in Tripoli

Twenty-five people — including Ambassador Miles, 11 women, and two children — were trapped in the British embassy in Tripoli, surrounded by "Revolutionary Guards," a Foreign

Office spokesman in London said. Mr. Miles' wife, Julia, was under separate siege in the ambassador's official residence.

Seven more British women and 11 children were trapped in staff homes scattered around the city, surrounded by "small crowds," the spokesman said.

Libyan regret

Foreign Office Minister of State Richard Luce said on British Radio that Libyans in the embassy had expressed regret at the death of the policewoman.

"They have expressed to us, through our contacts, regret at the fact that a British policewoman was killed," he said.

"We remain in the position that we ask them to come out peacefully and thus enable us to go in and search for weapons and explosives. We are doing our utmost to resolve this problem sensibly and peacefully," he added.

The Associated Press quoted

Continued on page 3

Zia, Khalifa call for Israeli withdrawal

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan and Qatar Wednesday called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and other occupied Arab lands.

A joint communique issued at the end of a three-day visit to Pakistan by Qatari ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani also called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war and withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

The communique said Sheikh Khalifa and President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq agreed during talks that an Israeli withdrawal was a basic step towards the restoration of Lebanon's independence and sovereignty.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction that Lebanon's rival factions were negotiating national reconciliation and said they hoped the talks would lead to a formula guaranteeing the return of security, stability and normalcy to Lebanon.

The communique said the two sides reaffirmed that any Middle East settlement should be based on Israel's complete withdrawal from all the Arab and Palestinian land which it occupied.

The communique repeated what it called a passionate, fraternal appeal issued Tuesday to Iran and Iraq to put an immediate

end to hostilities and settle their differences through negotiation.

The two leaders re-affirmed their support for resolutions by the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The communique also said the right of Afghan people to determine their own political and economic system should be respected and Afghan refugees should be able to return to their homes in safety and honour.

Sheikh Khalifa arrives in India, page 2

Egyptian-Soviet talks positive, Ghali asserts

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian-Soviet talks on normalising relations, which plunged after President Anwar Sadat expelled Soviet military advisers in 1972, have already proved positive, an Egyptian minister said Wednesday.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters the talks, with visiting Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov, reflected the two countries' will to co-operate towards improving their relations.

Mr. Polyakov was Moscow's last ambassador to Egypt. He was expelled from Cairo more than two years ago when Mr. Sadat accused Moscow of stirring sectarian strife. His return for talks has fuelled speculation that the two countries may soon restore full diplomatic ties.

Mr. Polyakov is at present in charge of Near East affairs at the

Soviet Foreign Ministry. "Talks have been positive and confirmed the political will of the two countries to co-operate together in the direction of improved relations," said Mr. Ghali, who has held several rounds of talks with the Soviet envoy.

Mr. Polyakov's expulsion was the climax of nearly a decade of strained relations after Mr. Sadat ordered some 17,000 Soviet military advisers out of the country in 1972. But since President Hosni Mubarak came to power in October 1981, relations with Moscow have improved.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Polyakov discussed the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese situation and the Iran-Iraq war with Mr. Mubarak's chief political adviser Osama Baz, diplomatic sources said.

Greece will not accept Turkish moves in Cyprus, Papandreou tells NATO

ATHENS (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Premier Andreas Papandreou has warned the United States and its allies Tuesday that Greece will not accept "coup-style acts by the Turkish side on Cyprus."

The premier was referring to Tuesday's exchange of diplomatic envoys between Turkey and the self-styled Turkish republic of northern Cyprus.

"The United States and our other NATO partners must realise that Greece is not going to tolerate coup-style acts by the Turkish side on Cyprus," Mr. Papandreou said in a statement.

"We await their reactions," he added.

Tuesday's ceremonies in Ankara and the Turkish-held sector of Nicosia marked formalisation of Turkey's ties with the breakaway republic.

Iraqi forces hit 2 'naval targets'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its navy and air force hit and destroyed two large "naval targets" in the Gulf early Wednesday.

A military spokesman gave no detail of the sort of targets involved, but quoted air force pilots as saying they saw both of them on fire and sinking.

In London, Reuters quoted sources at Lloyd's marine intelligence as saying a tanker identified as the Rover Star was damaged by a missile and was now heading for Dubai for a survey of possible repairs.

They said they did not know when or where the incident occurred.

Lloyd's said the 25,458-ton Rover Star is Panamanian-registered.

One of the Iraqi attacks took place in the stretch of water between Iran's oil terminal at Kharg Island, at the head of the Gulf, and the Iranian port city of Bushehr, the spokesman said.

The other target was hit and destroyed in a waiting area for oil tankers at Bushehr.

Both attacks were made at four a.m. Wednesday morning (0001 GMT) the spokesman said.

Iraq's last reported attack in the area was on March 29 when the Greek bulk carrier Lapetos was left blazing off the coast of Iran.

Shipping officials in Athens said it was hit by a missile, apparently fired from the land, and the ship's owners said it was bombed from the air as well.

Iraqi warning

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said in Baghdad Tuesday that Iran and Israel were launching an anti-Iraq campaign

"in preparation to strike at key Iraqi economic installations," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

INA quoted President Hussein as telling a group of army officers that "Iranian and Israeli claims that ships carrying goods in the Jordanian port of Aqaba contained chemical material are part of the preparations for a new aggression."

Libyan mediation 'failed'

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan reported Wednesday that a recent bid by Libya to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end has ended in failure.

Citing an unidentified Arab minister, the paper said that Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi's right-hand man, Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, recently paid a secret visit to Tehran where he held a brief but unsuccessful meeting with Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The minister quoted Maj. Jalloud as telling Ayatollah Khomeini that "Libya stood by you when the Iraqis were fighting inside Iranian territory. Now we want you to listen to us and bring this destructive war to an end."

When Maj. Jalloud finished, Ayatollah Khomeini left the room and "never returned to the Libyan" envoy, Al Watan quoted the same Arab minister as saying.

It said that "when Khomeini disagrees with anything said to him, he simply walks out and leaves his guest behind."

Egypt pursues peace plan despite Iranian rejection, page 2

OIC team meets today to discuss Jerusalem

RABAT (R) — A committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meets in Fez Thursday to review the serious situation facing Jerusalem and Israeli attempts to change the Holy City's Arab and Islamic character.

The two-day meeting of the Al Quds (Jerusalem) Committee is expected to be dominated by moves in the United States Congress to transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Arab diplomats said.

Members of the committee, set up in Jeddah in 1979, are: Bangladesh, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syria and Jordan.

Although its main aim is to oppose Israeli attempts to change the character of Jerusalem, the committee also deals with the issue of Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

King Hassan of Morocco, as chairman of the Islamic summit which met in Casablanca in January, sent a message to President Reagan in March urging him to oppose attempts in Congress to approve Israeli steps to modify the status of Jerusalem.

Mr. Reagan said his administration was "actively opposed to legislation proposed by Congress to transfer our embassy to Jerusalem." (Egyptian newspaper urges U.S. pressure on Israel, page 2)

The president recalled that in his Middle East peace initiative in September 1982, he had said "Jerusalem must remain undivided, but its final status must be defined by negotiations."

The proposal before Congress was debated at a ministerial council of the Arab League in Tunis last month.

Informed sources said that at the Tunis meeting delegates approved a resolution threatening undefined retaliatory steps against countries which moved their embassy to Jerusalem. But they fell short of threatening to break diplomatic relations.

Diplomatic sources said Thursday's Fez meeting was likely to mandate King Hassan in go to Washington for talks on the issue.

The meeting is also due to discuss a proposal by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to convene an extraordinary meeting of Islamic foreign ministers to discuss Jerusalem, diplomatic sources said.

Turkey is the only country which has recognised last November's unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriot minority on the divided Mediterranean island.

Turkish troops took over the northern third of Cyprus in 1974 after the military dictatorship in Athens staged a coup against President Makaris. The island has been effectively partitioned ever since.

Both Greece and Cyprus have pledged to intensify diplomatic efforts to reverse the unilateral decision to set up the state.

Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou is due here on May 2 for talks with the Greek government to discuss a new policy on Cyprus after the failure of an attempt by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to revive stalled negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

The U.N. secretary general joined the Cyprus government Tuesday in protesting over the exchange of ambassadors between Turkey and the self-proclaimed state.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said in a statement he deeply regretted the development, adding this jeopardised his current mediation effort for the resumption of peace talks.

The Cypriot U.N. mission Tuesday circulated a statement by a government spokesman in Nicosia saying the "exchange of so-called ambassadors between Turkey and the pseudo-state in the occupied areas of Cyprus is an entirely unacceptable, illegal and arbitrary action."

It said the Cyprus government would examine all appropriate measures "in order to deal with this new act of provocation" by the Turkish-Cypriot side.

Egypt seeks to end Gulf war despite Iran's refusal

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt went ahead Tuesday with its initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war despite advance rejection by Iran of any Egyptian authored peace plan.

Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali clearly indicated that Egypt will pursue its peacemaking effort through the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement.

At the same time, President Hosni Mubarak sent an envoy Tuesday to India, Malaysia and Indonesia with messages to their heads of state about a peace plan Cairo has prepared.

On Monday, the official Iranian News Agency IRNA turned down the Egyptian initiative, saying it was "not even negotiable."

IRNA said Iran's rejection applied to any Egyptian proposal "introduced directly or indirectly," apparently meaning through the Non-Aligned Movement.

"What Egypt is doing falls within the framework of ... the non-aligned group," Mr. Ali told reporters. "Within this position, all proposals seeking an end to the Iran-Iraq war should be included. This is the duty of every member of the non-aligned group."

As Mr. Ali spoke, Assistant Foreign Minister El-Shafai Abdel Hamid left for the Indian capital of New Delhi to deliver a message from Mr. Mubarak to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Foreign Ministry officials said the message contained an outline of the Egyptian plan aimed at bringing a cease-fire in the 43-month-old Gulf war to be followed by peace negotiations.

Mr. Mubarak has declined to

disclose details of the plan but earlier this month hinted it might include the deployment of an international peacekeeping force along the Iran-Iraq border. Following his India visit, officials said, Mr. Abdul Hamid will go to Malaysia and Indonesia on similar missions.

Another Egyptian envoy, Abdul Raouf Al Reedy, director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organisations Department, will travel on Wednesday to Pakistan and Bangladesh, also members of the Non-Aligned Movement, with messages from Mr. Mubarak about the peace plan.

In an interview with the Paris-based Arabic-language magazine "Kull Al Arab" (all the Arabs), published on Wednesday, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali said Egypt will continue to "extend diplomatic and political support to Iraq and meet its requirements in terms of arms and equipment."

Israelis have died since the June 1982 invasion.

The army was originally expected to stay in Lebanon a matter of weeks to destroy Palestinian commando strongholds in South Lebanon. Instead it pushed north to the outskirts of Beirut.

The IDF will not disclose its current strength in Lebanon, but foreign reports put it at more than 10,000 Israeli soldiers.

Israeli forces have come under daily hit-and-run attacks in South Lebanon. On Wednesday a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at an Israeli outpost near Maaroub and a roadside bomb exploded as an Israeli convoy passed the Borj Al Chimali Refugee

Camp near Tyre, an army spokesman said. There were no casualties in either incident.

Mr. Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens have said the army will not be recalled until security arrangements are made to protect Palestinian commando attacks on Israel's northern border settlements.

Mr. Shamir denied this week that the government was planning a withdrawal before the July election.

"We still are not in a situation where we can establish a timetable," Mr. Shamir told the Maariv newspaper, "but we are making a special effort to create such a situation which will allow for it."

Water pipes hang down into the void, leading nowhere. Some diplomat's swivel chair, bleached by the sun and soaked by the rain, totters on a ledge 15 metres above the drive.

Small boys play on the forecourt, scavenging for odds and ends among the rubble of the 20th or 21st floors devastated in the car blast.

The embassy has never been so open — any passerby can rum-

mage among the piles of documents that litter the offices. State Department handbooks, dog-eared telegrams marked "confidential", reels of war films brought in to amuse the Marine guards and stacks of visa application forms, filled in but never returned — all are there for the picking.

The embassy staff who survived have moved out, abandoning the building to the elements and to the scrap dealers who have already carried off almost everything of marketable value.

American officials have taken up quarters in nearby buildings, including the British embassy, and at the U.S. ambassador's rambling mansion in the hill suburb of Yarz, southeast of the capital.

At the time of the explosion, which marked the start of what now looks like a determined campaign to discomfort the Americans by violence, U.S. diplomacy was supreme in Lebanon.

U.S. mediators, led by special envoy Philip Habib, were at the

centre of the Israeli-Lebanese talks which culminated in the controversial May 17 troop withdrawal agreement.

The talks were in their 16th week and on the day of the car bomb attack both Mr. Habib and his assistant Mr. Morris Draper were in Beirut, though not in the embassy.

U.S. arms were flowing into Lebanon and U.S. military trainers were installed at the Defence Ministry on a mission to build up the Lebanese Army into a fighting force capable of extending government authority throughout the country.

A contingent of 1,800 U.S. Marines was deployed at Beirut Airport as part of the new defence Multinational Force sent in as a sign of Western support for President Amin Gemayel.

Commando attacks on the foreign troops had hardly begun and the Marines still patrolled through highly populated districts which later became no-go areas.

The only armed attack on the American contingent to date had been on March 16, when five Marines were wounded by a grenade thrown from a building in the suburb of Ouzai.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon, who was in his office about to go jogging at the time of the explosion, said the blast would not affect Washington's determination to secure the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country.

And Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who visited Beirut four days later to pick up the bodies of the American victims, told reporters the United States was committed to do everything it could for Lebanon.

For almost a year their promises held true. Three groups claimed responsibility for the embassy operation, but the name which turned

up again and again as the anti-Western campaign developed was that of "Islamic Jihad", a secret organisation known only by its claims for this and other attacks on U.S. and French targets in Lebanon and the Gulf.

Its major strike was the twin suicide truck bombings which razed two buildings in south Beirut to the ground on Oct. 23, killing 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers.

U.S. public opinion was so shaken that Washington had little choice but to seek a way out of Lebanon without losing all its credibility as a reliable ally in the Middle East.

The opportunity came in early February this year, when anti-government militia forces seized control of West Beirut from the Lebanese Army in 17 hours of street fighting.

Within a month the Marines were gone, the May 17 agreement with Israel was formally abrogated and the flow of U.S. arms to Lebanon had fallen off to a trickle.

Israel preparing to stay in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli military authorities are preparing plans to keep the army in Lebanon until the end of 1984, Deputy Chief of Staff General David Ivri said Wednesday.

"In its yearly plan, the IDF (Israel Defence Forces) considers the possibility that it will remain in Lebanon the entire year of 1984," Gen. Ivri told state radio.

At the same time, it is preparing alternative plans in which, if the political echelon decides to change the deployment in Lebanon, the IDF will be ready," he added.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir faces a general election in July and is under pressure to withdraw the army from Lebanon, where 577

Israelis have died since the June 1982 invasion.

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The embassy staff who survived have moved out, abandoning the building to the elements and to the scrap dealers who have already carried off almost everything of marketable value.

American officials have taken up quarters in nearby buildings, including the British embassy, and at the U.S. ambassador's rambling mansion in the hill suburb of Yarz, southeast of the capital.

Pyramid declared safe

CAIRO (AP) — Chemical experts Wednesday cleaned the interior of the 4,600-year-old Pyramid of Pharaoh Chephren of a mysterious gas that made visitors sick and the Antiquities Department decided to re-open the monument to tourists on Thursday morning, an antiquities official said.

"The pyramid has been declared safe," Mr. Ahmad Moussa, director for the Pyramids area, told the Associated Press.

"We have decided to re-open it to visitors at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) tomorrow," he added.

He said experts used chemical sprays to remove all traces of the gas first detected on Monday as 15 foreign tourists were looking at Chephren's burial chamber. The gas caused them eye irritation and difficulty in breathing.

Even before Wednesday's clean-up, Mr. Moussa said, most of the gas had dissipated.

The Pyramid, the second of three towering limestone structures considered among the "seven wonders of the ancient world," was put off limits to visitors immediately after the gas was detected.

BEIRUT — The skeleton of the U.S. embassy in Beirut, scene of a massive suicide car bomb attack a year ago, stands on the seafloor as a monument to the tatters of U.S. policy in Lebanon.

The seven-storey yellow building would have collapsed long ago without the forest of steel props hastily erected after 63 people, including 17 Americans, died here within seconds on the afternoon of April 18, 1983.

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American officials have taken up quarters in nearby buildings, including the British embassy, and at the U.S. ambassador's rambling mansion in the hill suburb of Yarz, southeast of the capital.

At the time of the explosion, which marked the start of what now looks like a determined campaign to discomfort the Americans by violence, U.S. diplomacy was supreme in Lebanon.

U.S. mediators, led by special envoy Philip Habib, were at the

centre of the Israeli-Lebanese talks which culminated in the controversial May 17 troop withdrawal agreement.

The talks were in their 16th week and on the day of the car bomb attack both Mr. Habib and his assistant Mr. Morris Draper were in Beirut, though not in the embassy.

U.S. arms were flowing into Lebanon and U.S. military trainers were installed at the Defence Ministry on a mission to build up the Lebanese Army into a fighting force capable of extending government authority throughout the country.

A contingent of 1,800 U.S. Marines was deployed at Beirut Airport as part of the new defence Multinational Force sent in as a sign of Western support for President Amin Gemayel.

Commando attacks on the foreign troops had hardly begun and the Marines still patrolled through highly populated districts which later became no-go areas.

The only armed attack on the American contingent to date had been on March 16, when five Marines were wounded by a grenade thrown from a building in the suburb of Ouzai.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon, who was in his office about to go jogging at the time of the explosion, said the blast would not affect Washington's determination to secure the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country.

And Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who visited Beirut four days later to pick up the bodies of the American victims, told reporters the United States was committed to do everything it could for Lebanon.

For almost a year their promises held true. Three groups claimed responsibility for the embassy operation, but the name which turned

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Syrian defence minister warns Israel

KUWAIT (AP) — Syrian Defence Minister Gen. Mustafa Tlas was quoted Wednesday as warning that his armed forces will "strike at Israeli settlements at once" if Israeli warplanes attacked Palestinian refugee camps in retaliation against recent guerrilla raids inside the Jewish state.

"Israel would pay dearly if it attacked Syria," Gen. Tlas told the independent newspaper Al Qabas in an interview conducted in Damascus. "We would hit Israeli settlements at once if they (Israelis) attacked Palestinian refugee camps."

Gen. Tlas said that Israel was expected to "commit aggression" on Syria, blaming alleged U.S. support for this.

"This does not worry us at all, because we are prepared to repulse aggression," he said.

He revealed that in recent months a total of 300 Syrian Air

Force pilots "volunteered for suicidal attacks" on U.S. units in the Mediterranean, including the battleship New Jersey.

"This was a factor in the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli accord," he said, alluding to the May 17 agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

Syrian forces entered Lebanon in the summer of 1976 under an Arab League mandate to police a civil war armistice between right-wing Falangist militias and Palestinian-supported anti-government forces.

Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982, when it dislodged the Syrians and Palestinians in Beirut.

Syria has since maintained a sizeable military presence in eastern and northern Lebanese regions.

"If asked by the Lebanese government, Syria has no objection to redeploying its forces in Beirut," said Gen. Tlas.

He said that "thanks to Soviet support, Syria has been able to maintain a strategic balance with Israel. We value the Soviet support very highly, which runs contrary to the American Mideast policy of unlimited support to Israel's ambitions and aggression against Arab countries."

Gen. Tlas said that the Syrian-Soviet treaty of fraternity and co-operation calls for aiding Syria in Lebanon, "because our presence in Lebanon is meant to protect Syria, now that Israel is in the (eastern Lebanese) Bekaa Valley."

"We won't allow Lebanon to become the soft under-belly of Syria's defences," Gen. Tlas insisted. "We won't allow Lebanon to fall under Israeli hegemony. The Soviet-Syrian treaty covers this perfectly legitimately. We know that Israel will come to us (attack us) from Lebanon."

Qatari emir arrives in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, arrived Wednesday for a three-day visit to discuss international and bilateral economic issues.

President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi greeted Sheikh Khalifa on his arrival from a three-day visit to Pakistan.

The Sheikh said in a statement his talks with Indian leaders would help to expand bilateral ties and enable the two countries to contribute more effectively to international peace and security.

He will hold talks Thursday with Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Energy

Minister P. Shiv Shankar.

Indian officials said they expected the Gulf ruler to sign agreements on economic and technical co-operation.

About 45,000 Indians work in Qatar and the possibility of setting up joint ventures was likely to be explored during the talks, the officials said.

Pharmacists patch up two-week old dispute

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A crisis which erupted two weeks ago following the collective resignation of eight members of the council of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA) was solved when those who resigned agreed Tuesday night to withdraw their resignations as the president promised to adhere "to collective work."

Mayor of Amman Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh, who was a member of an arbitration committee formed last week to look into the dispute, told reporters Tuesday night that "after a series of meetings the committee held with the JPA pre-

sident and the board members in question, the president pledged his commitment to collective work. Consequently the eight members withdrew their resignations thus putting an end to the JPA crisis."

The eight members, resigned two weeks ago accusing the president, Mr. Ghaleb Sabbarini, of acting dictatorially and ignoring the council's decision.

According to Mr. Rawabdeh, the JPA president admitted responsibility for the reasons that led to the resignations, and promised to avoid adopting a similar style that might cause further misunderstanding in the future.



King Hussein and Queen Noor with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat and his wife Tuesday evening attend a ceremony to mark Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Week (Petra photo)

Military court jails six

AMMAN (Petra) — Six Jordanians have received prison terms for embezzling public funds, trafficking in hashish, bribery and negligence in the course of duty.

A statement issued by the military court Wednesday said that Mohammad Salem Al Harasis and Walid Falah will be jailed for one year each for embezzling public funds.

Abdullah Mohammad Al Tal-

afah will be imprisoned for one and a half years with hard labour

and Sami Hazza, Sweidan will go to jail for one year and pay a fine of JD 50, both for receiving bribes.

Ziyad Adib Hamdan will be jailed for one month for negligence, and Hussein Darwish has been sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment with hard labour and fined JD 5,000 for trafficking hashish.

The military governor Wednesday endorsed the sentences.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab-African bank board to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary at the Ministry of Finance Abdul Majid Qasem will take part in the board meeting of the Arab-African International Bank in Abu Dhabi. In the three-day meeting, the delegates will discuss ways of handling international economic and financial issues and maintaining strong Arab financial and economic power. Mr. Qasem said before his departure Tuesday.

Transit talks with Saudis slated for May

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation will visit Saudi Arabia early next month for talks on transit and transport matters and the passage of lorries through the Jordanian-Saudi Arabian borders. The delegation, which will be led by Transport Minister Taher Al Fikhat, will include representatives of the Ministries of Interior and Industry, Trade and Tourism. The delegation was formed at Wednesday's regular cabinet meeting.

Australians thank drug squad after arrests

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has received a cable of thanks from the international police bureau in the Australian capital of Canberra for the efforts made by the PSD that led to the seizure of a large quantity of hashish smuggled into Australia several days ago. The drugs department of the PSD had tracked the smugglers until they reached Australia.

Site allocated for Zarqa's new library

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-dunum site has been allocated to build a new public library in Zarqa. The decision was taken during a meeting held Wednesday at the Zarqa district governor's office and which was attended by the Department of Libraries Documentation and National Archives (DLNA) director-general Ahmad Sharakas and other officials. Dr. Sharakas said that the move is aimed at developing public library facilities in Zarqa, and that the scheme developed during celebrations at the recent national book week.

Brazilians offer to carry crude

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport is currently studying two offers submitted by two consortia of Brazilian companies to transport quantities of crude oil through Jordan by land. The number of transport trucks to be used will be taken into consideration by the ministry before a decision is made.

Britain, Libya lay siege to each other's mission

(Continued from page 1)

Foreign Office sources say saying their main concern was possible reprisals against the 8,000 Britons in Libya if tempers were whipped by anti-British propaganda being broadcast by the revolutionary government of Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi.

Since the shooting, St. James's Square in central London has been sealed off by police and shielded from view by large screens erected in its approach roads.

Police marksmen have their guns trained on the building, officially called the Libyan people's bureau, but have allowed food and drink to be carried inside and have been in regular contact by telephone with those inside.

No one outside the building knows whether the fatal shots were fired by one of Libya's accredited diplomats, or by someone else who, once outside the sanctuary of the embassy, would not enjoy diplomatic immunity. Police say they feel confident the gunman is still inside the building.

Around midday, two men in civilian clothes handed food in at the door of the embassy.

Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said it had

learned that the Libyan apology was authorised by Col. Qadhafi's administration.

But an unidentified Libyan inside the embassy said in a brief telephone interview with London's Thames Television network that the firing "wasn't from our people. We are innocent."

With Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on an official visit to Portugal, the man dealing with the crisis was Home Secretary Leon Brittan, who is the cabinet minister responsible for law enforcement.

Police stopped a man in an Arab-style head-dress who tried to cross barriers around St. James's Square. They found a machete under his leather jacket.

He was arrested and taken away but police said later he was not suspected of any link with Tuesday's attack.

Libyan complaint

Meanwhile, Libya Wednesday accused Britain of violating international agreements and asked U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to persuade the British government to end the siege of the Libyan embassy in London.

It also asked the U.N. chief to help secure the release of the Lib-

yan charge d'affaires and other diplomats who it said were being detained by British authorities, as well as other Libyan nationals that it claimed were held at Heathrow airport.

In a letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is in London this week for U.N. meetings, Libya's charge d'affaires at the United Nations, Awad Burwin, also accused British police of taking hostage students at the Libyan Arab College and of breaking into the homes of Libyan students and ill-treating them.

The letter made no mention of Tuesday's shooting.

Shultz assails Libya

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Wednesday condemned Libya as "a troublemaker in the world" and said the bullets fired into a crowd from inside the Libyan embassy in London merely symbolised the "out of bounds behaviour" of the regime of Col. Qadhafi.

Mr. Shultz said he is sure the British government will resolve the incident in a virtual state of siege.

"I'm sure the British in their usual sophisticated and good way will handle it with strength," Mr. Shultz said.

UNICEF, government discuss setting up of temporary regional office here

By Affah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has begun discussions with the Jordanian government to arrange the practical setting up of its regional office here after a decision taken recently to move from Beirut.

UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa, which was based in the Lebanese capital for 34 years, was moved to Amman last February for a temporary period of two years, according to UNICEF regional director Victor Solar Sala.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Sala expressed his appreciation to the government for its kind hospitality in inviting UNICEF to settle here while its regional office in Beirut is not operational.

Mr. Sala pointed out that UNICEF does not plan to move its regional office on a permanent basis "because it would be against Arab courtesy to leave a country with whom we have spent so many years."

The decision taken to move the office dates back to last June when the situation became untenable in Beirut. UNICEF then approached the Jordanian government requesting their support in establishing a temporary office in Amman, he said.

However, Mr. Sala added, the UNICEF office in Beirut dealing with Lebanon is still operational with a staff of 65 people. The regional office, which is supposed to support the activities of many countries in the region, "could no longer really fulfil its obligations," he said.

As for the reason for selecting Amman, it was deliberate and studied decision, he said after looking at all the countries in the Middle East and North Africa, we could not think of any better alternative, he said.

Mr. Sala said that UNICEF is currently discussing the office details with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Finance. We are negotiating "what they think is feasible to provide UNICEF with especially in this difficult times of recession, he said.

The director explained that it is traditional, in the case of the establishment of an office of an international organisation, that the host country provides the offices in addition to their annual con-



Victor Solar Sala

tributions to the body.

From an economic point of view, Mr. Sala said, there are also certain pay offs to the host country. "The office spends money there through its general operations, as well as conference meetings. Also its staff spend money there while many nationals are usually recruited."

In reply to a question, Mr. Sala said that work of the UNICEF regional office became effective the day they reached Amman, the offices, for the time being, having been set up at the Amra Hotel.

Mr. Sala pointed out that there is already a UNICEF country office which has operated in Amman since the 1960s. It is now represented by Mr. Hassan Shawareb, the resident programme officer.

Asked if there are any plans to fuse the regional office with the country one, Mr. Sala said that the organisation usually does not mix them together to avoid interfering in their already established work. The fact that the move will only be temporary is another factor against this, he pointed out.

Regarding UNICEF regional office staff, Mr. Sala said that some of the staff, who used to work with us in Beirut, are being transferred here and we are in the process of recruiting a number of Jordanians for vacant positions.

On UNICEF funds, Mr. Sala said that UNICEF receives contributions mainly from governments and "this is the major source of our funds but it is not based on a quota system." Instead, we work on voluntary contributions which are pledged annually at a conference which takes place every November in New York, he explained.

"Every government pledges a certain amount, and that is what we call regular funds. Major donors include the U.S., Scandinavian countries and Italy," he added, continuing that "a major donor is a country which contributes over \$20 billion," he said.

Forty per cent of the Arab Gulf Fund for Economic and Social Development is contributed to UNICEF for use all over the world not just in Arab countries.

Other source of UNICEF funds are national committees which raise money, particularly in industrialised countries, he said.

"They raise funds through greetings cards and calendars and these are used to advocate UNICEF strategy, a very good way to get the message of the organisation over to a large number

of people," he added.

A third source of UNICEF funds are the noted projects which contribute to the budget, he said.

Explaining such kinds of projects, Mr. Sala said that there are a number of countries which have funds available for external assistance but they do not have the infrastructure. Hence they channel these funds through UNICEF "utilising our infrastructure and established capability and they select the projects they want to fund out of those we have already identified as being worthwhile."

"Canada, for example, has adopted a water and sanitation project in Jordan," he pointed out.

Jordan, Mr. Sala said, contributes \$30,000 a year to the UNICEF general budget, but these funds are not earmarked for any particular project.

Asked about UNICEF's role in Jordan, Mr. Sala said that the organisation works in many areas including child health, education, nutrition. "We have been involved in quite a number of programmes but now our main activities across the world are in area development, that is providing support for integrated services in remote or backward areas."

Commenting on the programmes in Jordan, Mr. Shawareb said that UNICEF is working in six areas with the government. According to the agreement, which started in 1982, he said, UNICEF is trying to demonstrate area developments in six areas, five of which are in the rural areas and one in the slum area of Amman.

Mr. Shawareb added that one of the noted projects financed by Canada, is the water and sanitation project implemented in the rural areas which is costing \$1 million.

Mr. Sala said that immunisation, therapy, health education projects are carried out in Jordan with the government.

"We are also monitoring children's health to detect any problems with nutrition," he said.

Mr. Sala pointed out that UNICEF has many programmes administered jointly with other organisations.

For instance, he said, in the field of support to Palestinian mothers and children, which started in 1980 upon the general assembly resolution of 1977 to assist Palestinians in the region, we work closely with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

"We channel through them most of our resources because they have already established programmes," he explained.

Mr. Sala pointed out that UNICEF's work also goes beyond UNRWA programmes. "For our programmes are not only for refugees."

There is a UNICEF board meeting to be held in Rome early next week to request the allocation of \$7 million for a programme for Palestinian women and children in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

King attends Soviet friendship week ceremony

Uzbekistan minister praises strong links with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of light industries in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan has praised the strong ties between his country and Jordan and voiced the Soviet Union's firm support for the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Speaking at a ceremony Tuesday evening to mark Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Week at Al Hussein Youth City which was attended by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Mr. Mahmud Korbanov said that Uzbekistan celebrates Jordan's Independence Day on May 25 each year to mark "the true and strong relations between the Soviet and Jordanian people" which, he said, are being continuously strengthened and developed under the leaderships of King Hussein and President Chernenko.

The minister presented King Hussein with a portrait of himself by a noted artist from Uzbekistan.

Soviet Ambassador Rafik Nishanov and his wife, who also attended the ceremony, presented King Hussein and Queen Noor with a traditional Uzbekistan costume.

Also speaking at the event was Walid Khayyat, a member of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society board, who expressed his appreciation to King Hussein and Queen Noor for attending the ceremony and said that it was clear that "their majesties are keen on

promoting the ties of friendship between Jordan and the Soviet Union."

Co-operation between the two countries reflects the good level of relations between them at a critical time when the Arab Nation is facing the expansionist and aggressive policies of the Israeli rulers, Mr. Khayyat said.

Later the King and Queen watched a performance by the Lyasgy Folk Troupe from Uzbekistan.

The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and other officials and invited guests.

King Hussein has conferred on the Soviet troupe the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order.

Soviet team meets parliament speakers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A visiting delegation from the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan, led by Mr. Mahmud Korbanov, Wednesday called on the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez.

Both speakers praised the friendly ties between Jordan and the Soviet Union and Jordan's appreciation of Moscow's support for just Arab causes.

"Jordan appreciates the Soviet Union's stand in the face of Israel's aggression and expansionist policies, and its calls for an end to

occupation of Arab territory," they said.

Also discussed at the meeting were ways of increasing Jordanian-Soviet Parliamentary co-operation.

The meeting was attended by several members of both houses of parliament and Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Rafik Nishanov.

Yarmouk U. visit

Mr. Korbanov and his delegation later called at Yarmouk University in Irbid and met its President Adnan Badran.

Dr. Badran spoke about the university's development and programmes, and praised the co-operation between Jordanian and Soviet universities.

Mr. Korbanov expressed the delegation's appreciation of the hospitality accorded to them during their visit to Jordan and praised the countries' bilateral relations.

A member of the delegation then proceeded to deliver a lecture on social and economic development in Uzbekistan.

Arab chamber delegates visit Jordan Valley

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants at the conference of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture here Wednesday went on a tour to the Jordan Valley where they visited a number of agricultural and developmental projects.

"They were acquainted with the comprehensive agricultural development programmes there and the role of these projects in supporting the national economy."

The participants also visited the King Hussein Bridge area, the Dead Sea and a number of tourist sites.

A luncheon was held in honour

of the participants at the guesthouse in Deir Alla which was attended by a number of officials in charge of the economic projects in the Jordan Valley area.

The conference, which resumed its sessions later, was expected to issue recommendations after its three days of meetings.

These are expected to act as a prescription for a future Arab economic strategy to face the threats facing the Arab World and its economy.

Trade protocol with Tunisia due soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Tunisian Minister of International Co-operation Wednesday discussed with Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani ways of promoting Jordanian-Tunisian trade and economic relations.

The two ministers will hold further talks here Thursday to prepare a joint Jordanian-Tunisian trade protocol which will be signed by the two sides at a later date.

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Pretoria short of creating a friendly Namibia

By Neil Lewis
 Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — With independence for Namibia (South West Africa) once again a possibility, South Africa's strategists have embarked on a campaign to fashion a potential future government to their liking.

But diplomats and analysts say Pretoria is encountering difficulties in its efforts, which are aimed mainly at reducing the political fortunes and influence of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

SWAPO is the principal black liberation group challenging South African rule of the territory, the last dependency on the African continent. South Africa gov-

erns Namibia in defiance of the United Nations, which has adopted a plan to bring the territory to independence through free elections.

A recent flurry of diplomatic activity and statements from South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha that Namibia had become too costly to govern have raised new hopes that an independence settlement and an end to the simmering 17-year-old war between South Africa and SWAPO may be in sight.

Analysts believe it is for these reasons that Pretoria has intensified efforts to ensure that those who may be poised to take over Namibia on independence are not hostile to South Africa.

Nearly all political analysts

agree that the overwhelming favourite in any free elections as envisaged in the U.N. plan would be SWAPO, South Africa's bitter battlefield adversary.

South Africa has therefore banked its hopes on boosting the "Multi-Party Conference" (MPC), a handful of local Namibian political parties, as an alternative to SWAPO.

The MPC, which has the full support of the South African government, has been given the task of drafting a constitution for an independent Namibia.

One apparent South African effort to promote the MPC at the expense of SWAPO was the unexpected release from jail last month of veteran Namibian nationalist Herman Toivo Ja Toivo.

Mr. Toivo, a co-founder of SWAPO, was due to serve four more years of a 20-year sentence on "terrorism" charges in connection with espousing Namibian independence. Analysts say he was released early to cause dissonance or at least confusion in SWAPO's political hierarchy.

South Africa's intentions to have Mr. Toivo enhance the MPC while causing consternation in SWAPO were apparent in that the unexpected release was preceded by an MPC call for him to be set free, the analysts say.

"It's clear the situation was set up in order for the MPC to take credit for his release," said one.

"He was supposed to be grateful to the MPC."

In the event, the strategy app-

ears to have backfired. Mr. Toivo came out of jail with a blast at the South African government, which had him imprisoned for 16 years. He also said he remained the "servant" of SWAPO and attacked the MPC as all but traitors for dealing with Pretoria.

Analysts say much of Pretoria's enmity is centred on SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma. Prime Minister Botha has suggested privately that he would be less averse to a SWAPO government in Namibia if Mr. Nujoma were not in charge.

"It's almost a personal thing between them and Sam," said one diplomat.

The Toivo release was only the latest of South Africa's efforts to split SWAPO ranks and lessen

Mr. Nujoma's power. South Africa has attempted to entice a wing of SWAPO to join the MPC.

One South African official said that if SWAPO declined invitations to join the MPC it could be fairly said later that it had refused to participate and thus deserved to be written out of a future government.

But the MPC suffered a blow of its stature recently when the Damara Road (council) withdrew, its leaders saying they felt it was being exploited as an anti-SWAPO front.

While some of the member parties of the MPC have only small followings, the Damara Road is a recognised ethnically based party led by Justice Garoeb, a respected political figure.

Words lost on Israel

LISTEN TO the advice of Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lang to realise that it is not worth living in a continuous state of war even if they are the winners, the Israelis will not do. President Reagan last year (but only then) said essentially the same thing; Israel totally ignored him. So, what should we, and the rest of the world, expect from Israel?

The chances for a peaceful Middle East solution basically lie with two conditions: To grant the Palestinians their legal and historical rights in Palestine and to let the Israelis live in peace in their state.

As things stand now, Israel is not ready for accommodation, and the Palestinians are still too weak to impose their will, by force or otherwise.

Zionism is most probably too narrow an ideology and too self-righteous a concept to offer accommodation for the Palestinian people in their own homeland. As a practice, it is outright racist; and there is not a chance in a thousand that it would change, except perhaps through the use of force. Furthermore, just the entertaining by the Israelis of the idea that the Palestinians have rights in Palestine should in fact be enough to negate those "divine" rights claimed by the Zionists in the Holy Land. It is unlikely therefore to expect any Zionist government to extend the hand of peace to the Arabs just when Israel has the upper hand in the military balance of the area.

The biggest problem faced by this generation is the fear that there will not be an opportunity to accommodate both Arabs and Jews in the land of peace. But this fear is not necessarily shared by extremists on both sides.

An atmosphere of total and painful pessimism hangs over the area, with the kind of talk that could bring about a settlement quickly fading out of sight.

This is a time when the words of sensible men like Mr. Lang are being lost on the people who stand to suffer the most from their own dangerous lack of vision — but mainly the Israelis.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Serious stance needed

THE JERUSALEM Committee is due to start a meeting in Fez Thursday to discuss developments in the Holy City and the Israeli pressures on world nations to transfer their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. No doubt the recent move by El Salvador of its embassy to Jerusalem has faced the Arabs with a problem of persuading other nations not to succumb to Israeli pressure.

If the Arabs will resort to denunciations and protests as usual, they will not achieve any fruitful results. The committee should recommend that Arab states must take effective measures which could entail severing diplomatic and economic ties with any country which follows El Salvador's example. The Arab and the Muslim Nations should only blame themselves if they fail to take unified and effective measures in this concern. They should take action now if they really want to preserve the Arab and Islamic culture and sanctity of the holy places in Jerusalem.

We hope that the Jerusalem issue will be a focal point around which Arab and Muslim states rally to confront a common challenge. The eyes of the world are on Fez to see whether the Arab delegates will take firm action to preserve the rights of their nations and whether they will rise to the level of challenges confronting them.

Al Dustour: Palestinian dialogue

PALESTINIAN GROUPS meet in Algiers at present to study means of ending internal disputes and overcoming difficulties that impede unity and joint action. The meetings represent a constructive step which we hope would yield fruitful results. The meetings give hope to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and bolster their steadfastness at a time when the Zionist enemy is carrying out plans to Judaize Arab territory and building settlements.

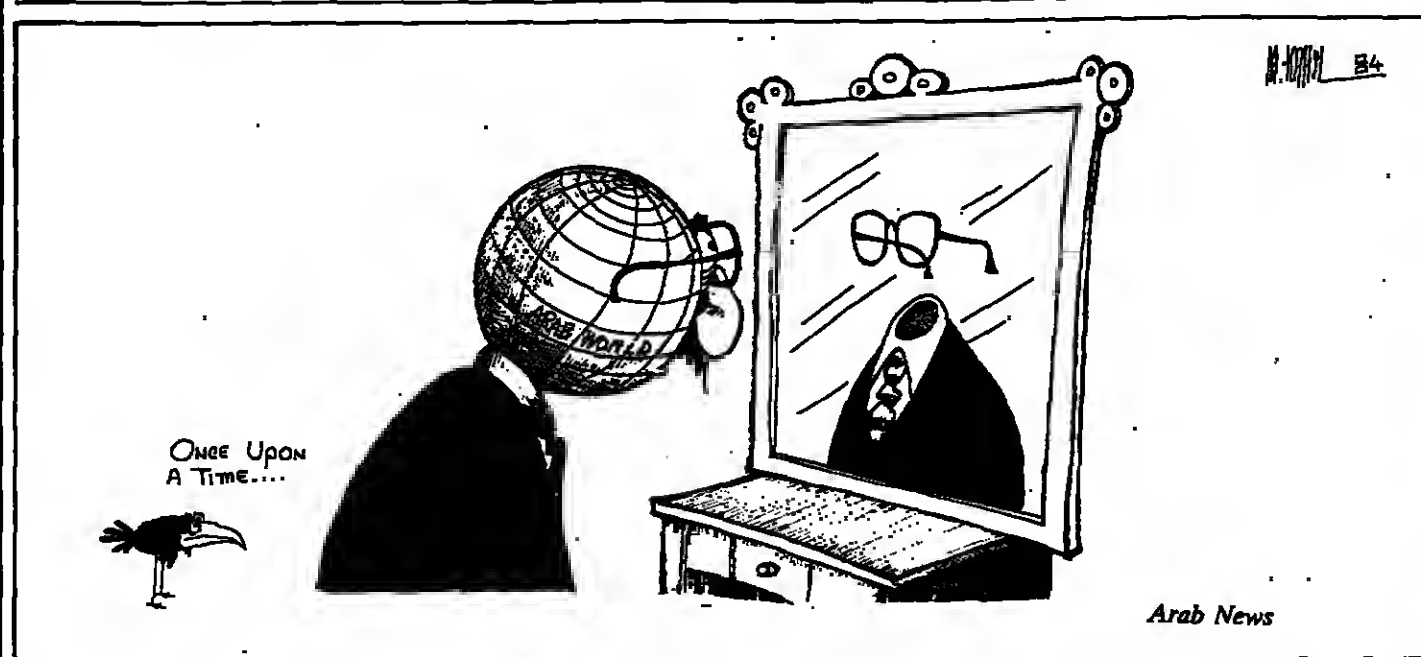
The meetings are a real test for those loyal to the Palestinian cause and those who shun unity among resistance groups and therefore continue to weaken the Palestinian movement. The delegates to the meetings have a grave responsibility as they will tackle complicated issues, but they would not doubt succeed in their endeavours if they work with good will and intentions. They must help themselves so that others can help them, and so that they can prove to the world and to the Zionists that they are really concerned with liberating their lands and freeing their people from occupation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Comprehensive outlook

IN HIS speech to the delegates attending a conference of Arab Chambers of Commerce Industry and Agriculture, King Hussein stressed the importance of the joint Arab economic action. He said this constitutes a basic element for a pan-Arab strong position and a means enabling the Arab states to confront the present challenges.

In a lecture to the delegates later, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stressed the same theme and underlined the inevitability of Arab economic integration. In his lecture, Prince Hassan explained that development does not mean massing of wealth but the employment of this wealth together with expertise, manpower and raw materials for the advancement of all Arab states. Prince Hassan called on Arab states to re-examine their style of economic development in the light of recession in oil wealth. He called for the exploitation of Arab resources and investment in mineral, industrial and agricultural projects with the ultimate objective of serving all Arab states, poor and rich alike.

Investment of Arab wealth should not be confined to one state but should rather be made in different states, as this should not doubt create common interests and form a basis for Arab economic integration, leading to Arab unity.



Portugal is unscrupulously becoming part of America's global strategy

By Alberto Pontes
 Reuters

LISBON — Portugal's Algarve region, better known for its sandy beaches and year-round sunshine, is to become a centre for military sky-watching, but the prospect has won a mixed reception.

The region in the southernmost part of Portugal has been chosen to provide sites for a U.S. satellite tracking station and for a NATO radar installation.

The United States was offered the satellite tracking site in exchange for more military and economic aid for Portugal, the poorest country in Western Europe and whose armed forces need new technology and equipment.

Opposition comes from the Communist Party, the third largest in parliament, which has accused Prime Minister Mario Soares of selling the country to American imperialism.

Residents in the Serra de Caldeirao hills — where diplomatic sources say the satellite station will be located although the site has yet to be officially disclosed — are apprehensive mainly because they are not sure what dangers to the area a strategic military installation might bring.

But local Social Democrat Mayor Antonio Bica said the station would bring advantages in the form of new jobs.

The agreement for the GEO-DSS (Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance Sys-

tem) came two weeks after Mr. Soares visited the United States in search of aid, credit and investments to prop up the faltering economy.

Last December, after almost a year of negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz came to Lisbon to sign a new accord for America's continuing use of the Lajes air base in the Azores Islands in return for about \$1.32 billion over seven years.

Referring to the new deal, President Reagan told Portugal it was "playing a significant role in the freedom of Western democracies and maintaining world peace."

The diplomatic sources said the satellite tracking station would be built in the hills about 20 kilometres from the city of Faro and would be ready for use in 1987.

The station will form part of a network of five watching the 800 or so man-made objects currently orbiting the earth.

Three stations are already working, transmitting data to the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD). They are at Socorro in Mexico, Maui in Hawaii and Taegu in South Korea. The fourth is under construction at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

The Communist Party said in a statement: "For the Portuguese people, sovereignty, security and national independence are invaluable and are not for sale."

The Soviet Union charged that Washington had exerted pressure on Mr. Soares to agree to the pro-



President Soares — caught in the parliamentary game



Socialist Soares — heading West at full speed

ject which TASS news agency described as a spy station forming part of the United States' preparations for a World War.

The station will be manned by 50 Americans with Portuguese support staff.

There are plans to build the NATO radar station in the picturesque Monchique range of hills, also in the Algarve, but the Socialist mayor of Monchique, Carlos Tuta, said this was giving him headaches.

He said he was worried about the effect on the tourist industry of a military installation in the middle of the Algarve's most scenic countryside.

The authorities had told him

they would build it to blend in with the surrounding building and that its military personnel would be kept to a minimum and out of sight.

The radar, costing \$2.3 million and to be operated by the Portuguese air force with NATO assistance, will cover Spanish Andalusia, North Africa and 320 kilometres Portuguese coastline.

Portugal's allies have more plans to use this strategically placed country.

The United States is also interested in facilities at the Beja air base on the central southern plains, used by the West German air force, and on the island of Porto Santo in Madeira.

Can Congress halt Reagan's crusade?

By Jim Adams
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — A controversy over the mining of Nicaraguan ports now threatens to halt covert U.S. aid to anti-government rebels and could jeopardise the growing military pressure against Leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

An angry House of Representatives Thursday joined the Senate in demanding that the Reagan administration halt any U.S. role in the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

Democratic congressional leaders, armed with the overwhelming votes denouncing the CIA-supported mining, say they have the votes to cut off money for Nicaraguan operations.

A Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official told Reuters such action would halt the operations because President Reagan's bar from continuing them unless Congress approves new funds. "The funding we have is running out," the official said.

Speaker Thomas O'Neill predicts the Democrat-controlled House will approve only a third of Mr. Reagan's request for \$61.7 million in emergency military aid to El Salvador because of growing fears of U.S. combat involvement there.

U.S. officials have confirmed in the past two weeks that American spy planes provide combat in-

teligence to Salvadoran troops and U.S. military advisers have been near combat three times this year but did not come under fire themselves.

But Mr. Reagan's top advisers denied press reports last week that he plans to step up U.S. military action if he is re-elected in November and that contingency plans are being prepared for sending U.S. combat troops to El Salvador.

The escalating U.S. military measures caused open revolt in Congress with the disclosure last weekend that the CIA was taking a direct hand in the placing of mines in Nicaraguan waters by the so-called "contras."

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Barry Goldwater, an Arizona Republican, called the mining an act of war.

Democrats denounced the mining in blistering terms, one calling it "an act of stupidity" and another "sheer lunacy."

Non-binding resolutions calling for no further U.S. involvement of any kind in the mining passed the Senate by a vote of 84-12 and the House by 282-111. Allies including Britain, France, Spain and Canada also criticised the mining.

The Reagan administration fuelled the outcry by saying it will not recognise the jurisdiction of the World Court on a Nicaraguan suit to halt the mining.

U.S. officials publicly defended



Kirkpatrick right-wing consistency

the mining, which has caused minor damage to at least 10 ships, while refusing to confirm that U.S. agents directed the mine-laying.

A State Department official said the mines slow down Soviet bloc and Cuban weapons supplies for what he called a possible major offensive by Salvadoran guerrillas late this year.

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick also said Nicaragua's neighbours have the right to lay mines and take other "collective self-defence" measures to protect themselves against Nicaraguan export of revolution.

Ms. Kirkpatrick accused Leftist Nicaragua Thursday of a "continuing, determined armed attack" against its neighbours.

In an effort to defuse anger in

Congress, Mr. Dam was quoted as telling congressmen on Wednesday that mine-laying had stopped. But he reportedly gave no assurances it would not be resumed.

But a Nicaraguan Navy commander told reporters in Managua Thursday that a U.S. warship distributing the mines was still lying 65 kilometres off the main port of Corinto.

The Senate has already approved Mr. Reagan's request for \$21 million to continue covert operations against Nicaragua and for nearly \$62 million in emergency military aid for El Salvador.

The administration knew the funds would be cut in the House but hoped to win the full amount in a final House-Senate compromise bill and then get another \$31 million in emergency military aid for El Salvador later.

But Sen. Goldwater told Mr. Reagan aides they could no longer expect the Senate to prevent a cut-off the Nicaragua operations because of the future over the mining and Tuesday's 84-12 Senate vote against the mining indicated he was right.

The danger to Mr. Reagan's military aid request for El Salvador is that Congress will approve only a fraction of the \$310 million he says is needed over two years for the U.S.-backed government to break the stalemate against the Leftist guerrillas.

Nigerians disenchanted with generals' pledges

By Michael Bettey
 Reuters

LAGOS — Three months after Nigerians gave a rapturous welcome to a military coup, many appear to be losing confidence in the new government's ability to get to grips with the country's massive problems.

Most Nigerians were delighted when Major-General Mohammed Buhari seized power on Dec. 31 and said the corruption which had thrived under the ousted civilian government could no longer be tolerated in a country reeling under a major economic crisis.

In his maiden broadcast, Gen. Buhari made two promises of great importance to the estimated 100 million people of black Africa's biggest and richest nation.

Rocketing food prices would be brought within the reach of the common man and there would be an end to the armed robberies which had mounted with the economic crisis, he said.

Instead, food prices have continued to rise and robberies have reached epidemic proportions, particularly in Lagos where residents say the problem has never been worse.

Nigerian sources say the two problems are creating such concern that they fear middle-ranking army officers, many of them believed to be opposed to the ruling generals, might decide their time has come to take over.

Fears that such a coup would be harsh and bloody, coupled with still-vivid memories of the corrupt excesses of the civilians, mean that Gen. Buhari still enjoys wide support, although with diminished confidence.

Gen. Buhari addressed some concerns last week when he broadcast his own assessment of his government's first 100 days. Speaking two days early to pre-empt newspaper analyses, he promised a crackdown on crime.

The following day, army and police units blanketed Lagos and rounded up over 6,000 suspected criminals, "violent extremists" and illegal aliens. The move reassured people, but they are pre-empting to wait and see before congratulating the government on making them feel more secure.

Gen. Buhari also promised action on food prices, which the government has failed to control despite an early effort to enforce approved prices through raids which simply encouraged traders to stop selling until the soldiers stopped coming.

He blamed hoarders, middlemen and smugglers for a continuing escalation of prices and said large amounts of food had

been ordered from abroad, clearly in the hope that a flooded market would force prices down. The food has yet to arrive.

Nigerians are equally unconvinced by the "war against indiscipline" (WAI) launched in February.

The WAI campaign has popular support in its efforts to organise "me first" Nigerians into an efficient and fair society, but most people are doubtful whether it will have any more than a brief impact.

A fundamental problem of high public expectations from the military stems from six dynamic months under Gen. Murtala Muhammed, who was assassinated in 1976 — three years before the military handed power back to civilians.

Gen. Murtala Muhammed is still revered for his "blitzkrieg" on corruption and inefficiency, and with several of his colleagues now leading the new military regime, something similar had been expected.

Instead, this government is trying to project itself as one which thinks and investigates before acting in a calm and disciplined manner. It clearly expects to rule for many years.

Where strong action has been taken, a chorus of complaints has arisen. When the government purged senior officials from government departments, newspapers complained they were being indiscriminate.

When thousands of government workers were sacked because there were no real jobs for them and because the federal and state governments were in such debt that they had to cut payroll costs, the unions protested and pleaded for a halt.

When free education was abolished in those states where it had been introduced, mostly in the west, because the government could not afford to pay for it, parents objected loudly.

No matter how often government leaders try to explain that the economic disaster they inherited was far worse than they ever imagined and that rescue will take time, Nigerians seem to expect success tomorrow.

The government is likely to have to announce more unpopular measures when it gets a loan of over \$2 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which will almost certainly be granted only in conjunction with a devaluation.

Many prominent and widely backed Nigerians have argued against devaluation, which would fuel inflation in a country that imports substantial amounts of food.

LETTERS

Hostile American attitude

THE abrupt DECISION of the U.S. administration to withdraw the proposed sale of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and strong move by certain congressmen to shift the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, has come as a rude shock to all peace-loving people in the world.

What is surprising is that both Jordan and Saudi Arabia have been staunch friends of the USA, extending utmost support at all international forums in diffusing tension. Yet, they are met with such an unfriendly and hostile stance. These countries wish to acquire modern weapons just to defend themselves and history, testifies to this fact. Whilst America's protégé illegitimate child, Israel, has been year after year drenched with huge quantum of advanced and sophisticated weapons, which it is using for occupying the legitimate lands of neighbouring countries. Even a layman can now judge whether America is really a true friend or foe of the Arab-Muslim World.

Once again, the American election year has come to demonstrate how low its leaders can bow, just to gain few votes and secure a seat. We sincerely hope that enlightened American citizens will do away with their misguided leaders, before any hasty and negative action is taken against the Arab-Muslim World. Let it be remembered that not only the 43 Arab-Muslim nations, but also non-aligned and peace-loving countries of the world would sever relations with the USA. Regrettably, it is observed that of late, the USA is playing an active role as a "trouble creator". Instead of diffusing tension, it is adding fuel to the fire. Due to the double role and certain actions of the recent past, the once-good image of Uncle Sam is fast eroding. An opinion poll around the world will reveal this fact.

Wake-up, my friends, the image and honour of your country is at stake!

M.A. Jabbar,
 Al-Jubail,
 Saudi Arabia.

Round-the-clock effort keeps the world on time

By Joy Aschenbach

WASHINGTON — Once upon a time, a glance at the sun seemed good enough. Now man needs to know the time to a billionth of a second, and atomic clocks tell him.

Go back a hundred years, and noon was whenever the sun passed directly over your town. To signal the moment in larger cities, a big "time ball" was dropped from a mast atop the highest point around.

There were at least 100 different local times in the United States, and a person travelling from coast to coast would have to reset a watch some 20 times.

Even within the East, when it was noon in the nation's capital, it was already 12:08 p.m. in Philadelphia, 12:12 in New York, and

12:24 in Boston. In Atlanta, it was still only 11:30 a.m.

On the right track

Confused? So were travellers on the then fastest means of transportation, the railroad. In Pittsburgh alone, six different railroad times governed train departures. Passengers easily missed connections.

That's the way it was until 100 years ago. At noon on Sunday, Nov. 18, 1883, time changed for good. The railroads standardised it into the four now familiar zones: Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific.

It was known as the "Day of Two Noons" because in the eastern part of each zone there was a noon by the sun, and another by

standard time. Telegraph lines transmitted the new noon time from the master clock at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., to major cities.

Some people grumbled. "The sun is no longer to boss the job," complained an Indiana newspaper. "People must... eat, sleep, work, marry, and die by railroad time. The planets must, in the future, make their circuits by such timeables as railroad magnates arrange."

Despite the initial resistance, the rest of the world followed. Within a few years the entire globe was divided into 24 uniform time zones, each an hour apart. Every 15 degrees of longitude east or west of the prime meridian at Greenwich, England, is equal in one hour in mean solar time. The

United States ran on railroad time for 35 years before Congress formally adopted that standardised system in 1918.

Ever since the beginning of standard time, scientists have spent time trying to make the nation and the world even more "on time." They have succeeded to within a billionth of a second.

Counting nanoseconds

What time is it — really? The "master clock" at the Naval Observatory has the most authoritative answer. The official timekeeper of the nation, it has used the atom to tell time since 1967.

Atomic time measures time in tiny units, nanoseconds, one billionth of a second. Atomic clocks gain or lose less than 10 nanoseconds a day. Even at that level of precision, the Naval Observatory doesn't rely on just one clock.

"The master clock is actually the averaging of time on 20 to 25 atomic clocks," explained Dr. Gernot M.R. Winkler, the Austrian-born astronomer who heads the observatory's time service division. "Any two clocks will always disagree. The more one has, the more predictable the system becomes."

To ensure accuracy, the square gray clocks keep time independently and are placed in separate, environmentally controlled vaults on the observatory grounds. They flash the time in red computer digits that are recorded on miles of printouts.

Atomic time is based on the frequency of oscillations in the cesium atom, which is constant 9,192,631,770 cycles per second. As timekeepers, atomic clocks are a million times more predictable than the Earth itself, Winkler points out. The Earth, which revolves

completely on its axis every 24 hours, has unpredictable shifts and disturbances in its size and movement that make it undependable as a clock.

Over millions of years it has been slowing down — and still is. About 400 million years ago the Earth's rotation took less than 20 hours. Although the world now runs on atomic time, official timekeepers around the globe don't ignore the planet. By observing the heavenly bodies, they keep track of its rotation time. To keep the two times synchronised, a "leap second" has been added to atomic time once a year, almost every year since 1972. One will be added this year on June 30.

Time sharing

Time on the Naval Observatory clocks is automatically computed every hour. These findings are reported to the International Time Bureau in Paris every 10 days. About 125 atomic clocks in some 20 countries around the world contribute in the computation of universal co-ordinated time, the time at the prime meridian.

The Naval Observatory's clocks represent the highest single share, about 22 per cent of the total, followed by France's, 10 per cent. The U.S. National Bureau of Standards clocks are also a prime contributor.

Who needs to know what time it is in the millionth or billionth of a second? Ships for navigation (there are two atomic clocks on every submarine), space shuttles and satellites, power companies to control the electric power flow over enormous grids, television networks to synchronise prime-time and other programming and to transmit pure colours. "Cape Canaveral's timing laboratory checks its atomic clocks against ours four times a day," Dr. Winkler said.

For most people, knowing what it is in the nearest minute or second is good enough, he concedes. Dr. Winkler, who doesn't wear a watch, said the observatory alone receives about 6,000 calls a day from people wanting to know the time directly from the master clock. Most come in between seven and eight a.m. and are answered by recorded tape.

Although atomic clocks are the ultimate authority on what time it is, the "convenience of commerce" as well as the sun governs the nation's standard time zones. Over the years there have been many adjustments, including daylight-saving time. Jurisdiction, inherited from the Interstate Commerce Commission, now rests with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

It's rare for whole states to seek time zone changes, but some people in Alabama and Alaska think the time has come. Alabama should shift from Central to Eastern

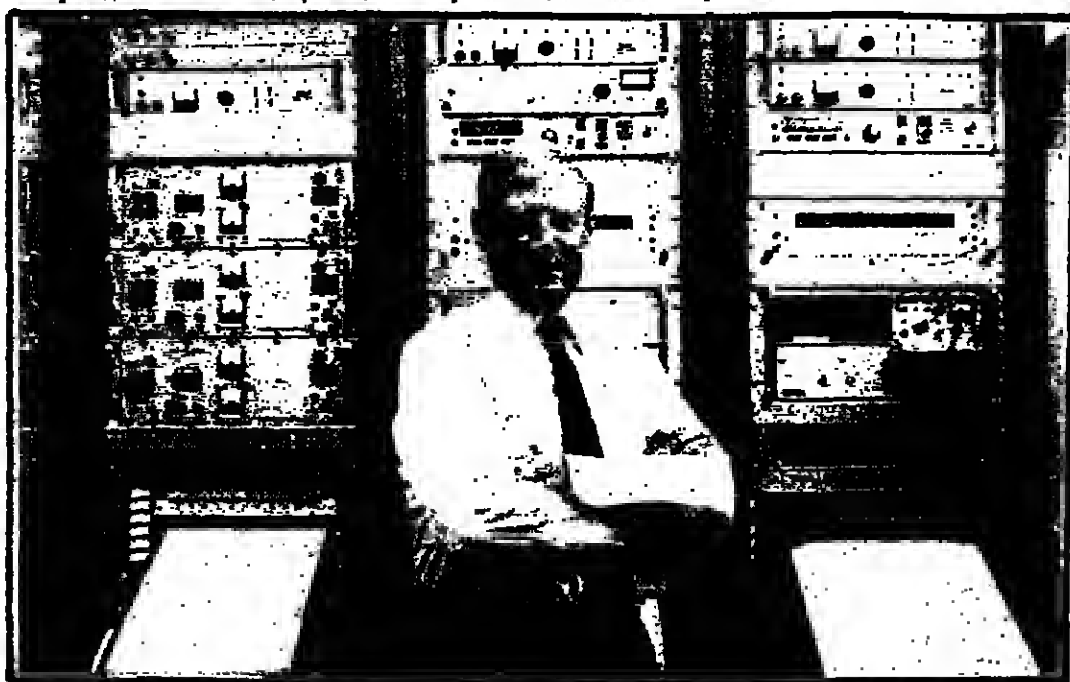
because so much of its business is tied to Atlanta, Ga., which is in the Eastern zone, say some state legislators.

Only two times

Alaska, the only state with more than a one-hour time difference within its borders, finds it hard to do business with four zones. The state government wants them reduced to two. "Now there's a three-hour difference between the capital at Juneau on Pacific time and Nome on Bering time," said attorney Robert L. Ross, who handles U.S. time zone cases. Alaska's other two zones are Yukon and Alaska-Hawaii.

Is it possible to tell time even more accurately? "There's no principle at this time limiting timekeeping," Dr. Winkler said. "We can still hope to build better atomic clocks."

But for something more precise, scientists may have to look out of this world. "Pulsars, dense stars which rotate so fast that they turn completely around in 1.5 milliseconds, may be the most stable clock in the universe. If we could succeed in observing these deep space objects with high precision over long periods, they could be more predictable than anything we could build on Earth."



Master of the atomic clocks at the U.S. Naval Observatory, Dr. Gernot Winkler presides over the system that acts as America's timekeeper.

Randa Habib's Corner

Names, names — a song

"THIS SONG goes to Iman, Rulana, Sahar, Zeina and Muna with our best wishes."

"And to Rula, Nayfe, Ziad and Sahar with wishes of happy birthday — Happy birthday to you Sahar and many happy returns of the day..." etc.

"Yes, we will hear now the happy birthday song, and, yeah, after that it will be your favourite song again."

The radio starts "happy birthday to you etc." The speaker sings with the song. Very touching.

"And now," adds the speaker, "let's go back to our song which goes from Staker X to all the X family with his best wishes," and this goes on for at least five minutes. As to the song, one should wait to hear it, but if one listens carefully one can hear it in the background overshadowed by the voice of the speaker.

The idea of requesting songs for friends is nice; I am sure that some people are happy to hear their names on the radio. Why not? But the listener should not be treated as mentally-retarded. The other day, during one such programme I heard six times the name of Rulana, ten times Sahar's (this name is sometimes repeated two or three times in the same song's list, but it is scattered in the beginning, in the middle and in the end to make it less apparent). And this goes on while other names that are repeated at least once — are not repeated. There are also the full names, first names and surnames that are constantly repeated (faithful fans). One of these names is the name of a friend of mine whom I immediately asked whether she was requesting songs, and she answered negatively.

Belfast's 'black taxis' run along set sectarian routes

By Colia McIntyre

BELFAST — A municipal bus pulls into a stop in central Belfast to pick up passengers. Minutes later, a battered black London-style taxi lets people off at the same point.

It is one of Belfast's "black taxis," or "people's taxis" as their organisers prefer to call them, a unique city transport service run as a private co-operative by the drivers.

There are in fact two separate services — strictly divided, like practically everything else in Belfast, into Protestant and Catholic versions — taking passengers between segregated working-class ghetto areas and the city centre.

Unlike normal taxis, they run along set routes: the Catholics up and down the Falls Road and the Protestants along the Shankill Road. The Protestant taxis use bus stops, the Catholic ones halt on command.

The services were born at the beginning of the "troubles", the sectarian and political violence which broke out in 1969, after city buses refused to operate in ghetto areas during periods of high tension.

The level of street violence in the city has dropped since the

mid-1970s, but the black taxis have established themselves as an essential part of the city transport system.

Jim Neeson, who runs the Falls Road taxi service, says that not only are the taxis half the price of the buses — taxi prices have not risen for three years — but they operate longer hours. Whereas buses stop at 11 o'clock at night, the taxis run until two in the morning.

The taxi operators are bitter that, although they provide a service, employ a large number of people and run at a profit — all qualities admired by the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher — they receive no government support.

"In fact the government is doing everything it can to get us off the streets," Mr. Neeson says. "We are the largest non-subsidised employer in West Belfast, and we could put 60 more taxis on the roads tomorrow if we had the money, but the government prefers to subsidise the loss-making bus service."

He says the taxis are all properly licensed and checked by government inspectors every year. They are also insured, though premiums are stiff and drivers have to pay the first 2,500 pounds (\$3,365) in any accident.

The government announced plans recently to let buses back into the city centre, which lies inside a security fence to prevent bomb attacks, while keeping the taxi-drivers will fight the case in the European Court if necessary.

"The government seems to believe its own black propaganda that we are run by paramilitary groups," Mr. Neeson said. He vigorously denied this frequent charge, though he admitted making contributions in welfare funds for families of jailed Republican guerrillas.

One of the most remarkable things about the two taxi services in the extent of co-operation between them, a rarity in this deeply divided city.

A major fear on both sides is of a taxi being hijacked by a paramilitary group for an attack across the sectarian divide. Taxis are watched closely for intruders.

"If we see a strange taxi, we get on to the Protestants and ask them to check it out. It's usually just some driver taking his wife to hospital," Mr. Neeson says.

Billy McIlwaine, who runs the Protestant taxis, said: "I challenge the government to pull out all the buses and let us flood the city with black taxis."

Re-reading Keats

'Ode on a Grecian Urn'

SUPERB OXYMORON is the key word that best describes the poem in which John Keats, the great English poet, presents his Grecian Urn. His oxymoron is virtually *par excellence*, and there is nothing like it, especially when the poet accommodates the idea of unfulfilment to that of eternity.

Bold lover, never, never canst thou kiss,
Though winning near the goal—yet do not grieve;
She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy bliss,
For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair!

We, mortals, do sensationally enjoy "heard melodies," but John Keats says:

..... those unheard
Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on;
Not to the sensual ear, but, more endear'd,
Pipe to the spirit ditties of no tone.

Oxymoron manifests itself more beautifully when he addresses the trees that will eternally be green:

Ah, happy, happy, boughs that cannot shed

Your leaves, nor ever bid the spring adieu.

And the poor heifer. It is doomed to be sacrificed, but never slaughtered:

Who are these coming to the sacrifice?
To what green altar, O mysterious priest,
Lead'st thou that heifer lowing at the skies,
And all her silken flanks with garlands dressed?

All this takes place at a town whose streets for evermore,
Will silent be; and not a soul to tell
Why their art desolate, can e'er return.

Oxymoron disappears when beauty and truth achieve the oneness that Keats preaches at the end of his masterpiece. The Urn, beautiful and true, will outlive the mortals when "old age shall this generation waste":

Thou (the urn) shalt remain, in midst of other woe
Than ours, a friend to man, to whom thou say'st
"Beauty is truth, truth beauty," — that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

— Ahmad Jaber.

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Noah beats Nastase

MONTE CARLO (R) — French Open Champion Yannick Noah beat the old Romanian master Ilie Nastase to secure the last second round berth while holder Mats Wilander moved steadily into the last eight in the Monte Carlo Tennis Open Wednesday.

Noah, back from Cameroon where he attended his grandfather's funeral at the weekend, had a hard job eking out a 7-5, 6-4 win over Nastase, winner of this tournament three times from 1971 to 1973.

But the 37-year-old Romanian, delighting the crowd with his gestures and banter, could not draw on all his old power to upset the number four seed in a delayed first round match.

Wilander, Noah's predecessor as French Open champion, had by then already claimed a quarter-final place with a 6-3, 6-3 second round win over Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia.

The 19-year-old Swede, seeded second here, was beaten by Smid in Brussels last month but always had the edge Wednesday although both struggled at times to win their service games.

Sixth-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador, winner of the Nice Open last Sunday, also moved into the quarter-finals. But the 24-year-old left-hander needed three

sets to dismiss American Brad Gilbert 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Wilander's quarter-final opponent will be Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, the number eight seed, who defeated Peru's Pablo Arraya 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the second round.

Sweden's Henrik Sundstrom, runner-up to Gomez in Nice, beat Jimmy Brown 6-4, 6-3 to line himself up for a quarter-final clash against the winner of Thursday's match between top seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Mel Purcell of the U.S.

The Noah-Nastase clash was fraught with errors, with shots flying into the trammelines or dropping lamely into the net. Only the fifth game went with service — Nastase's.

Noah, 23, was urged on by crowds of excited school children, who cheered when he pulled off an acrobatic winner.

But Nastase snatched him into too many mistakes for comfort, and it was a relieved Noah who rose to meet a chip from the Romanian and swat it home to secure

victory on his fifth match-point.

"I'm neither pleased nor displeased. It's not easy to concentrate when you play Nastase. I'll need a couple of matches to sort out my game," Noah said after his first match on clay since his victory in the French Open last June.

"It was difficult today to play well. Nastase has a very varied game. If it had been 10 years ago and I played like today, I wouldn't have won more than three games."

Nastase said he had not played as well as he should but lacked match practice. "If I play well I hope to get ranked in the top 100 and then, maybe, I can play more often," said the Romanian.

Nastase said he had lost speed, so he had to take risks and go for winners. "I didn't do too well. I hesitated too much but I could have won the first set," he said.

Win or lose, however, the crowd were delighted by Nastase's antics — his direction of a line-sweeping operation after some doubtful calls and his usurpation of a linesman's chair in the break before the final game.

There were fewer light moments in the match between Wilander and Smid in which the Swede landed good winners with passing shots.

Budd pulls out of race

CRAWLEY, England (R) — Zola Budd, the South African-born athlete controversially granted British citizenship recently, has withdrawn from a 1,500 metres race she planned to run here on Saturday.

Budd ran her first race in Britain at Dartford last Saturday and won the 3,000 metres inside the Olympic qualifying time. She hopes to represent Britain at the Los Angeles Games in July and was hoping to clock a second qualifying time on Saturday.

But Budd and her advisers made the decision to withdraw Wednesday after the Labour-dominated Crawley Council expressed concern about her scheduled appearance at their new

£300,000 (\$426,000) sports arena, which is due to be officially opened by the town's mayor, Alf Pegley, at the weekend.

Pegley said he was delighted with the news of the 17-year-old runner's decision, but insisted that the town's Labour group would not have banned Budd from the meeting.

It would have been embarrassing for me as Labour mayor as the Labour Party was opposed to her appearing.

"Apart from anything else it will be a local day and that side of things would have been overshadowed by the political connotations and anti-apartheid demonstrators."

30% of soccer matches revenues to help NOC

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held Monday at the King Hussein Youth City chaired by the Director General of the Youth Welfare Organisation, Mr. Mohammad Jamil Abu Al-Tayyeb, and attended by presidents and secretaries of 18 sports federations.

Several decisions and recommendations were taken during

the meeting concerning sports in Jordan. It was also decided to hold a special meeting on April 29 to look into the internal list of sports federations.

Those attending the meeting recommended that the minister of culture, youth and antiquities take measures to treat the football federation equally with the others by allocating 30 per cent of revenues from football matches to the Jordanian National Olympic Committee's fund.

Jordan to take part in Arab Sports Conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the second General Arab Sports Conference on May 6 in Riyadh.

The 5-day conference will discuss methods of developing the various sports activities in the Arab World.

Jordan will be represented by a delegation headed by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities, Dr. Abdullah Owaidat, accompanied by Youth Welfare Organisation (YWO) Director General Mohammad Jamil Abu Al-Tayyeb and Information and Public Relations Director of the YWO Abdul Munem Abu Tuq.

The first General Sports Conference was held in May 1979 in Rabat.

Iraq defeats Thailand

SINGAPORE (R) — Iraq opened their campaign for a place in the soccer tournament at the Los Angeles Olympic Games with a 2-1 win over Thailand in an Asia-Oceania Group 'B' qualifying match here Wednesday.

Iraq took the lead after six minutes when striker Wahid Munir Yaacob headed home Shakir Hamza's lob.

But Thailand levelled in the 37th minute after a break down the left. Centre forward Piyapong Pueon's cross was misjudged by three Iraqi defenders and Vorawan Chitavanich headed home.

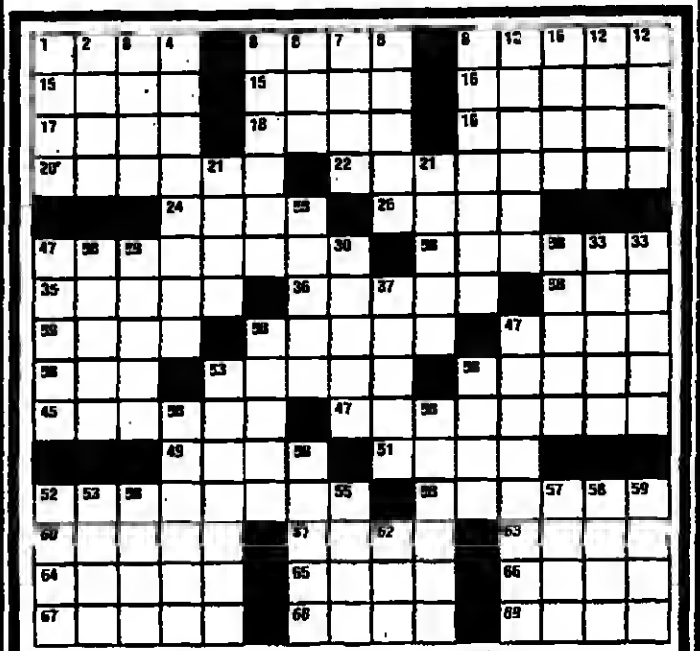
Thailand, Southeast Asia's soccer champions, almost took the lead two minutes later when Piyapong's lob beat the Iraqi goalkeeper but bounced off the bar.

Iraq scored their winner 18 minutes from time when substitute Ahmad Jasim Mahmood tapped in a low centre from the right.

Iraq's play Japan on Saturday in their next Group 'B' match while Thailand meet Qatar.

THE Daily Crossword by T. Richard Mora

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Nicaragua retakes port held by ARDE rebels

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan troops have recaptured a port held by rebels since Friday and driven the insurgents back across the border into Costa Rica, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday night.

But a spokesman for the Costa Rica-based Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) denied the guerrillas had abandoned the port of San Juan Del Norte and said fighting was still going on. "Our men are valiantly resisting the air, sea and land attacks of the Sandinist counter-offensive," he said, adding that he had been in radio contact with ARDE's military commander Eden Pastora. A Nicaraguan Defence Ministry statement late Tuesday night said the air force had sunk two of six vessels being used by ARDE rebels in their retreat from the southeastern Pacific port, two kilometres from the Costa Rican border.

About 450 guerrillas overran the tiny port on Friday and ARDE said it planned to establish a provisional government in southern Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan statement spoke of numerous casualties but did not give any figures. It said the insurgents had retreated into Costa Rica and that sporadic cross-border fighting continued Tuesday night.

The ARDE spokesman interviewed in Costa Rica said ARDE did not yet have the military capacity to hold positions. "It

is not in our interests to concentrate our forces in San Juan Del Norte where we are an easy target for the Sandinist Army," the spokesman said.

His comments were in apparent contradiction to earlier statements by ARDE spokesmen. They said the rebels would maintain their positions in the town and along 50 kilometres of beachhead to the north to ensure a constant supply of arms by sea and air.

ARDE said on Monday it would set up a provisional government in Nicaragua within 90 days and try to acquire more territory.

The capture of San Juan Del Norte was the first time Managua's leftist leaders had lost control of a slice of territory since anti-government insurgents began their attacks two years ago.

Hindus enraged after killing of leader

NEW DELHI (R) — Members of a Hindu vigilante group enraged by the murder of their leader Wednesday attacked police and smashed vehicles in the Punjab capital of Chandigarh.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said members of the Hindu Suraksha Samiti (Hindu Protection Force) marched through the city chanting slogans against the government and police and trying to force shops to close.

Police responded with baton charges but the city bus service was suspended after buses were stoned and their tyres punctured, it said.

The marchers were mourning the killing Tuesday night of Inder Pal Gupta, president of the Protection Force in Chandigarh.

The violence broke out on the eve of a parliamentary debate in which Home Minister P.C. Sethi is

due to disclose new measures to stop Sikh-Hindu clashes and vendetta killings among warring Sikh factions.

He told parliament Wednesday 131 people died through violence in Punjab between Oct. 7 last year and the end of March, with 86 arrested in connection with the killings.

Opposition politicians are poised for a scathing attack on Mrs. Gandhi for her handling of the crisis arising from the 19-month Sikh campaign for greater religious and political concessions in Punjab, where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live.

Private citizens have formed vigilante groups in many parts of the country over the past 19 months to guard Hindus against extremist attacks.

Police sources said they feared a Hindu backlash against Mr. Gupta's killing, particularly in

Haryana, where minority Sikhs have been the target of revenge killings for events in Punjab.

Mr. Gupta and seven people were injured when extremists threw a grenade at his shop in Chandigarh.

Other killings Tuesday were three home guards shot while patrolling railway lines, a lawyer and his wife and a woman suspected to be the victim of Sikh in-fighting.

The woman's body, strangled and marked with cigarette burns, was found in a sack on the outskirts of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Police said they believed the woman took part in the killing last Saturday of a top extremist who was a close associate of militant Sikh preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranvale.

Extremists have killed three other people they linked to the killing of Surinder Singh Sodhi.

French government to ask for vote of confidence

PARIS (R) — France's Socialist administration is to ask for a vote of confidence in the National Assembly Thursday, a move seen by commentators as forcing their junior Communist partners to take a clear stand on their support for the government's economic programme.

The junior minister in charge of parliamentary liaison, Andre Labarre, revealed the decision to ask for the confidence vote following the weekly cabinet meeting.

Commentators said the government's move in asking for a vote in a house dominated by a

clear Socialist majority was plainly a move to make the Communists take a firm stand.

Recent moves by the government to restructure the ailing French Steel Industry have caused a deep split between the Socialists and the Communist Party, which has had four ministers in the government since May 1981.

Deng, Howe 'agree on important matters'

PEKING (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping reached agreement on important matters affecting the future of Hong Kong, the New China News Agency reported.

It gave no details of the matters agreed, and British embassy spokesmen were unavailable for comment.

Sir Geoffrey had a 90-minute meeting with Mr. Deng this morning at the Great Hall of the People, the climax of three days of talks in Peking largely devoted to the highly sensitive Hong Kong issue.

The foreign secretary later left Peking for Hong Kong where he is due to brief officials and community leaders on the talks.

The New China News Agency report came after British diplomatic sources said Tuesday night that significant problems remained in negotiations on the future of the colony and its 5.3 million people.

"It is still too early to judge when a satisfactory agreement will be reached," they said.

Mr. Deng declined to tell reporters what was holding up progress in the negotiations before starting talks with Sir Geoffrey Wednesday. "It's a sensitive issue. I won't comment," he said.

Britain's lease on most of the colony expires in 1997. Britain and China have been negotiating since September 1982 on exactly how and when the handover of power takes place.

In an airport statement, Sir Geoffrey described his talks in the Chinese capital as wide-ranging and friendly. Both sides agreed a lot of progress had been made in the dialogue on Hong Kong, he said.

He said Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian had accepted an invitation to visit London, although no date had yet been fixed.

The foreign secretary said his meeting with Mr. Deng was "very friendly."

It was only officially confirmed Tuesday night that the meeting would take place, an apparent indication that enough progress had been made in the talks for Mr. Deng to take part personally.

Peking has set a deadline of this September for the negotiations to bear fruit.

Bush unveils plan for banning chemical arms

GENEVA (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush unveiled a plan Wednesday for outlawing chemical weapons and appealed to the Soviet Union to study it seriously and not reject it out of hand. Mr. Bush presented the U.N.-affiliated 40-nation Geneva Disarmament Conference with a draft treaty which would ban states from using, producing, possessing, storing or exporting chemical arms.

Under the accord all countries would agree to destroy existing chemical weapons stocks and manufacturing plants, and allow foreign inspectors to check that they had done so and were not secretly breaking the pact, Mr. Bush said.

The U.S. draft contained what Mr. Bush described as an unprecedented proposal for verification by "open invitation" under which all states would agree to open for international inspection at short notice all military, government-owned or government-controlled facilities.

This procedure would make it easier to detect treaty violations and to collect evidence for "appropriate international responses," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush said the United States was encouraged by a Soviet move last February agreeing to allow international inspection teams to

be stationed continuously at sites where chemical arms were being destroyed.

Moscow had previously argued that permanent presence of inspectors was unnecessary, but said it made the concession to help advance the protracted negotiations on a chemical weapons ban, which have been going on in Geneva in different forms for more than 15 years.

Mr. Bush said the permanent on-site inspection agreed to by the Soviet Union would establish confidence that all declared chemical arms stocks had been destroyed. The U.S. wanted similar continuous, on-site monitoring and periodic inspection to ensure all declared manufacturing plants had been scrapped, he added.

"Our delegation looks forward to serious consultations with the Soviet delegation, and to detailed discussions with all other participants on the elaboration of these provisions and other necessary aspects of an effective agreement," Mr. Bush said.

In an implicit reference to advance Soviet criticism of the U.S. plan, Mr. Bush said: "I am saddened that some — without even seeing a draft — have already chosen to issue statements charging that the introduction of this treaty text here today is the result of simple political motivation."

Gromyko says U.S. not ready for nuclear talks

BUDAPEST (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko said Tuesday that the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation are "not ready" for renewing talks on curbing nuclear arms.

Mr. Gromyko, who arrived on an official visit in advance of a conference of his six Warsaw Pact counterparts, also said the Soviet Union and Hungary agree about the need to strengthen cohesion between the Moscow-aligned Socialist countries, and in their co-operation in collective organisations such as the Warsaw Pact.

He said the United States and other Western nations are striving to seize a leading role in the world. "They rely on strength and armaments and try to build up military superiority, working out a succession of arms programmes for this purpose," Mr. Gromyko said.

Mr. Gromyko said the United States negotiations "lacked seriousness and honesty." He said the United States went ahead with plans to deploy cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe, and said the Soviet Union has "taken the necessary steps for restoring the upset balance."

COLUMNS 7&8

Pan Am makes bumpy landing

LONDON (AP) — A Pan Am Jumbo Jet, making an emergency landing Tuesday after its engine cover tore loose in midflight, lost its front wheel steering but returned safely to London's Heathrow Airport, an airline spokesman said. The plane, bound for Miami, Florida, via Washington with 268 passengers and 17 crew aboard, also developed "a hydraulic problem" after takeoff, said Pan American World Airlines spokesman Peter Joel. He did not elaborate. People in the small southern England town of Woodley and Hurs, some 64 kilometres west of London, scattered as part of the engine cowl, the aerodynamic-shaped covers for the Boeing 747's engines, crashed to the ground as the plane was climbing. The falling green aluminium debris damaged several cars in the town, witnesses said. The loss of front-wheel steering on landing caused "tremendous vibration," said Terry Stout, a passenger. He said the bumpy landing, which sent luggage crashing into the aisles and knocked out ceiling panels, was "the most terrifying part" of the almost two-hour journey.

Court gives twins to teenage mother

HOUSTON (R) — Dena Denise Carter is delighted that an appeals court has overturned a 20th Century version of the judgement of Solomon and awarded her custody of her twin sons. "I'm glad, I'm happy," she said of the court ruling. As for the original decision by Judge Virgil Mulanax to grant custody of one twin to her husband, Stan Edward Carter, she said: "I didn't like it at all." Carter filed for divorce from her teenage bride of less than a year on St. Valentine's Day, three weeks after the twins were born. He then sought custody of the children after the mother took the twins and moved back to her parents' home. Judge Mulanax ordered custody of one of the twins to Mr. Carter but his wife's lawyers promptly appealed against what they called a barbaric decision.

2 Soviet school chiefs accept bribes

MOSCOW (R) — The director and Communist Party chief of a Soviet medical school provided 120 of their relatives with jobs and marked up the paper "students in return for bribes," Pravda reported Wednesday. The Communist Party daily said an investigation into the Dagestan Medical Institute in the north Caucasus had exposed a web of corruption which had enabled the two men to live in luxury and build themselves villas on the Caspian Sea. Many of the students who had officially passed examinations there were "shown to have only a vague knowledge of medical theories," Pravda said.

Andrew sprays paint on photographers

LOS ANGELES (R) — Britain's Prince Andrew sprayed paint at a group of press photographers Tuesday, damaging some of their equipment, but a British official said later it was an accident. Prince Andrew, 24, was visiting a housing rehabilitation project in the Watts district of Los Angeles. He tested the spray equipment on the ground in front of him then levelled it at the cameras, said Bob Greenburg, one of the photographers. "It was a dumb joke," Greenburg said. He estimated it might cost \$500 to repair the lens of his video camera. Six photographers, five of them Americans, said their equipment received a misting of white paint droplets. "He did not do it deliberately," British Vice-Consul John Houlton said. "It was an accident. He did not realise so many people were involved. He was not familiar with this kind of spray, paint equipment."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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A ROYAL SACRIFICE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 5
♥ J 6 4 3 2
♦ Q 8 5 2
♣ 8

WEST EAST
♠ 10 6 4 3 ♥ 7
♦ K 7 ♣ 10 9
♦ J 7 6 ♠ A 9 4 3
♦ Q 9 7 6 ♣ K 10 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 9 8 2
♥ A 8 5
♦ K 10
♣ A J 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♣.

Showing impressive form, USA II won the qualifying stage of the Bermuda Bowl competition, the world championship of bridge. In one semifinal, USA II met USA I, while France and Italy battled for the other berth in the final.

This deal is from the match between USA II and Italy in the qualifying rounds. In both rooms the final contract was four spades. In the auction shown, one club was artificial, guaranteeing at least 17 points, and one heart was positive and game-forcing. Jim Jacoby, a former world champion and son of master gamesman Oswald

Jacoby, led a club. East's king lost to the ace, declarer ruffed a club and led a diamond to the king. When that won, he continued with a diamond, and West's jack was allowed to hold. A trump return was won in dummy, and declarer led a heart to the ten and ace. Jacoby carefully unblocked the king. Now declarer had no way to avoid losing two hearts and either a trump or a club for down one.

In the other room the play followed similar lines, except that the Italian West clung to his king of hearts. Declarer ruffed a club with the king of spades, ruffed a diamond and cashed the ace of trumps. This was the position:

NORTH
♠ J 6 4
♥ Q
♦ Q
♣ —

WEST EAST
♠ 10 6 4 ♥ —
♦ K ♣ Q 9
♦ — ♠ A
♦ 9 ♣ 10

SOUTH
♠ J 9
♥ 8 5
♦ —
♣ —

Declarer exited with a heart and West was end played. No matter what he returned after winning the king of hearts, declarer had to score both of his remaining trumps for his contract.

INVITATION

SOUTARI INTERNATIONAL CORP. in collaboration with the Embassy of the Philippines, has the pleasure to announce the Philippines foodstuffs, like bagoong, bangus, pancit canton, soy sauce etc... will be on sale at AL KHAIT FESTIVAL, on sport city, which will be held on April 19 to 21 under the auspicious of the General Jordan Women Federation.

Tel: 666720 Amman.

Khmer guerrillas say they still hold border base

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer resistance forces said Wednesday they were still holding a key base near the Thai-Kampuchean border despite continued attacks by Vietnamese troops.

Akhud Ghaffar, a spokesman for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), told reporters that Vietnamese troops were within 800 metres of Ampil Camp but added that they were unable to penetrate the camp itself.

The spokesman, who returned from the Kampuchean border base Tuesday night, said "our defence line (around the camp) has been re-established. We feel that we can hold Ampil."

He said Khmer resistance forces sent re-inforcements Tuesday but he did not give details. He added that the Khmer Forces at the camp were low on ammunition.

Thai military officials said last Sunday that Ampil, about 270 kilometres east of Bangkok and opposite Thailand's Prachinburi

province, had fallen.

A KPNLF spokesman said Tuesday the camp was still in rebel hands. But Wednesday's statement by the guerrillas was the first detailed briefing for the press on the military situation at the border area.

The spokesman said the Vietnamese launched a well co-ordinated attack on the camp early Sunday morning, using artillery in "an impressive display of firepower."

Vietnam had two regiments near the camp but it was unclear how many of those troops were used in the assault, he said.

A forward position known as Ban Ampil fell within the first hour of fighting, he said.

The Vietnamese attacked other rebel positions near the camp in groups of 20 to 30 but were forced back each time, he said.

Sporadic artillery firing continued Tuesday afternoon through early this morning, according to the spokesman.

Zanzibar votes for president amid stirrings of nationalism

ZANZIBAR (R) — The Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar, for 20 years part of the United Republic of Tanzania, votes for a new president Thursday amid discontent about the state of its union with the mainland.

A former slave-trading island 20 miles off the East African coast, Zanzibar joined what was then Tanganyika three months after a bloody revolution toppled the island's Arab leaders and put the black majority in power.

The election is aimed at countering discontent about the effects of the amalgamation at a time of economic hardship.

Although Zanzibar retained a large degree of autonomy under the union and has its own Revolutionary Council, House of Representatives and local administration, there have been complaints here of domination by the mainland.

Since 1977, the island has shared Tanzania's ruling Revolutionary Party as its supreme political authority. This sup-

remacy is challenged by some and amid public debate on the issue Zanzibar President Aboud Jumbe suddenly resigned in January.

Interim President Ali Hassan Mwinyi is the sole candidate in Thursday's election and is widely expected to poll the minimum 50 per cent "yes" vote needed for victory.

Jumbe had been in power since the murder of his predecessor Mr. Abeid Karume in 1972 and was also vice-president to Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

His resignation followed a debate in Zanzibar's House of Representatives on constitutional proposals aimed at consolidating the union and strengthening the party.

A number of Zanzibaris expressed fears that the mainland was swallowing Zanzibar and its sister island of Pemba.

Diplomatic sources in Dar Es Salaam say dissatisfaction with the union stems from the islanders' natural pride, declining living standards and lack of basic goods.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkin

WESTWARD HO!
By N.E. Campbell

ACROSS

- 1 Robe of office
- 2 Angered
- 3 Herd of sheep
- 4 Mouth of
- 5 Central line
- 6 Mr. Bayes
- 7 School strike
- 8 This actor
- 9 James —
- 10 Address of old time
- 11 Coloured
- 12 Transportation
- 13 Chemical compound
- 14 Game official
- 15 Pilot joke
- 16 Skin cancer
- 17 Had a session
- 18 Child's game

DOWN

- 1 Puffed down
- 2 Which act to prevent cut the crossings
- 3 In motion
- 4 Unintended
- 5 Dorian
- 6 Movie snarl
- 7 Lush
- 8 Poincarré
- 9 Early western
- 10 Contrive
- 11 Sing or burst
- 12 Concor
- 13 Magician's word
- 14 Decline
- 15 — flow

16 Lush look

17 Small

18 Nothing more

19 Dorian

20 Depots

21 Ancient Roman

22 Dorian

23 Art. tourist attraction

24 Talmudic capital

25 Planner

26 Oregon before statehood

27 Polishing

28 Thick-headed

29 Dr. Johnson

30 — Alliance

31 Bowed down

32 Attack

33 Shinto temple gateway

34 Ranch worker

35 Alphonse

36 Stripped instrument

37 Christmas's first

38 House founder

39 Trapped

40 Reply

41 Mountain ridge

42 Shaver's

43 — acid

44 Fragile

45 Animals

46 Cent

47 Red

48 Laid out

49 Engraved

50 With 54A, a

51 Planning agent

52 In a poor

53 health

54 Chilled

55 Before prot.

56 See 50A

57 Great review

58 News article

59 Contractor

60 Shopping hole

61 — Trail

62 Migration

63 Cane

64 Canning

65 Reply

66 Mountain ridge

67 Shaver's

68 — acid

69 Fragile

70 Animals

71 Cent

72 Red

73 Laid out

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